Form DJ-150
(Ed. 4-26-65)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: July 10, 1968

FMV:mfc
95-100-473

FROM : Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray

44-38861

680712042

Attached you will find an original letter and envelope received by the Attorney General yesterday, purporting to be from R. G. Sneyd. I also attach a copy of my acknowledgement to Ray's attorney.

It occurred to me that you might wish this for your file in the event handwriting exemplars are needed.

Attachments

2 ENCLOSURE

EXP. PROC.
34 JUL 11 1968

EX-103

44-38861-4813

REC- 15

14 JUL 11 1968

INDEX LAB FILES

59 JUL 22 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

14 DIRECTOR

RECEIVED - CONRAD

JUL 11 5 21 PM '68

F B I

LABORATORY DIVISION

JUL 11 3 42 PM '68

RECEIVED TOLSON

F B I

JUL 12 11 49 AM '68

JUL 11 3 57 PM '68

REC'D DE LOACH

F B I

RECEIVED

JUL 12 10 59 AM '68

DOCUMENT LABORATORY

F B I

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED DIRECTOR

F. B. I.

JUL 11 12 54 PM '68

JUL 19 10 38 AM '68

JUL 15 10 51 AM '68

RECEIVED - CONRAD

JUL 19 12 36 PM '68

F B I

LABORATORY DIVISION

REC'D - ROSEN

FBI

JUL 19 4 44 PM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS

FBI

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS

FBI

JUL 19 10 31 AM '68

JUL 22 7 55 AM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

N

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 9 1968
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
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FBI MEMPHIS

905PM URGENT 7-9-68 DGB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

ON EVENING JULY EIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT, AT APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN P.M., PATROLMAN, MEMPHIS ~~PD~~ Police Department, WHILE AT "GREEN BEETLE,", THREE TWO FIVE SOUTH MAIN, MEMPHIS, HAD INDIVIDUAL AT BAR BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION BY MANAGER. POLICE OFFICER APPROACHED MAN AT BAR WHO INFORMED HIM HE WAS JERRY RAY, BROTHER OF JAMES EARL RAY. REPORTEDLY, JERRY ASKED PATROLMAN IF HE THOUGHT JAMES GUILTY AND IF THEY WOULD EVER BRING HIM BACK TO MEMPHIS. REPORTEDLY, JERRY SAID HE AND BROTHER HAD ARRIVED MEMPHIS EARLIER ON AFTERNOON JULY EIGHT AND WERE TRYING TO FIND OFFICE TO RENT. THEY PLANNED TO SET UP COMMITTEE TO GET FUNDS FOR DEFENSE OF BROTHER. JERRY ALSO SAID THEY WERE GOING TO HIRE ANOTHER LAWYER FROM ST. LOUIS, NAME UNKNOWN. SAID HE AND BROTHER JOHN WERE STAYING AT LINDEN LODGE MOTEL, ROOM TWO TEN. MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER WHO ACCOSTED JERRY RAY NOT IN UNIFORM AND NO INFO AVAILABLE TO INDICATE JERRY RAY REALIZED THAT PERSON WITH WHOM HE WAS SPEAKING WAS MEMPHIS POLICEMAN.

EX-104 REC-60 44-38861-4814

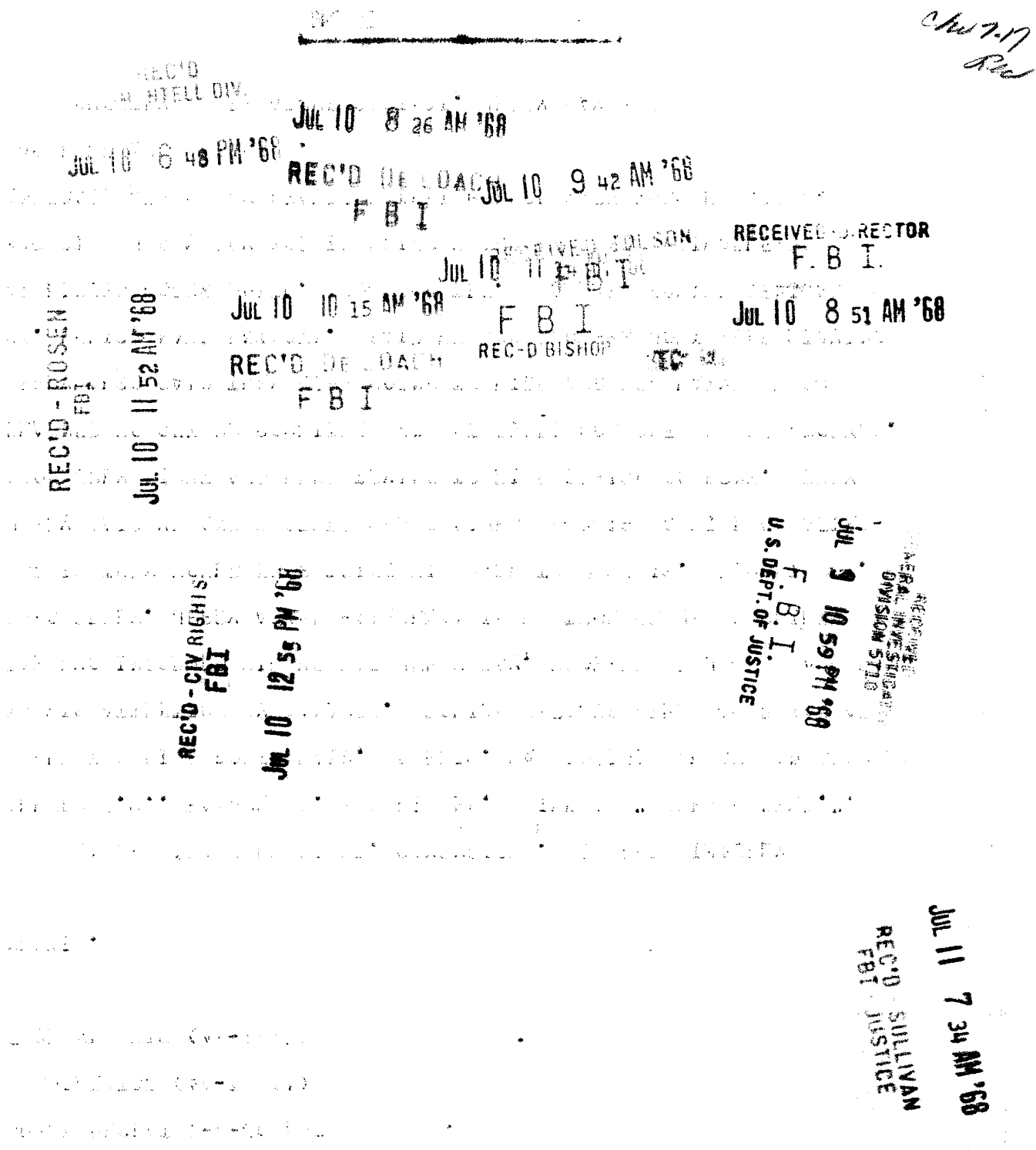
12 JUL 12 1968

SHORTLY AFTER ABOVE CONTACT, JERRY RAY WAS ARRESTED BY

59 JUL 23 1968

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

TWO MEMPHIS PATROLMEN FOR BEING DRUNK. HE WAS TAKEN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND GIVEN INTOXIMETER TEST WHICH READ POINT SEVENTEEN.

JERRY WILLIAM RAY, WM, AGE THIRTYTWO, OF ONE NINE ZERO TWO CHEROKEE STREET, ST. LOUIS, WAS ARRESTED AT ONE FIFTEEN A.M., JULY NINE, AT MAIN AND VANCE, MEMPHIS, ON CHARGE PUBLIC DRUNKENESS. AT NINE A.M., JULY NINE, JERRY RAY APPEARED DIVISION TWO, CITY COURT, BEFORE JUDGE BERNIE WEINMAN ON CHARGE PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS. CHARGE AGAINST HIM DISMISSED. WHEN CASE CALLED, A ~~WM~~ WHITE MALE IN COURTROOM OBSERVED TO APPEAR INTERESTED IN CASE AND AFTER CASE DISMISSED, LT. O. B. HOLCOMB, MEMPHIS ~~PD~~, POLICE, IDENTIFIED HIMSELF TO THIS ~~WM~~ WHITE MALE, AND ASKED FOR HIS NAME. PERSON STATED HE WAS JOHN RAY, JERRY'S BROTHER. IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW CONDUCTED THIS DATE BY ~~MPD~~ MEMPHIS POLICE, JOHN RAY SAID HE AND JERRY HAD ARRIVED MEMPHIS AT SIX PM, JULY EIGHT, AND HAD CHECKED INTO LINDEN LODGE, ROOM TWO TEN. THEY PAID RENT FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY. HE SAID THEY CAME TO MEMPHIS IN HIS CAR, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE CHRYSLER NEW YORKER, MISSOURI LICENSE A E TWO DASH FIVE FIVE EIGHT. JOHN RAY INFORMED HE AND JERRY HAD BEEN TALKING TO

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NEWSPAPER REPORTER JERRY LIPSON, WHO IS AFFILIATED WITH CHICAGO DAILY NEWS. LIPSON HAD ADVISED THAT JOHN AND JERRY COULD POSSIBLY COME TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM AND SET UP OFFICE FOR PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FUNDS FOR AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT JAMES EARL RAY. SUPPOSEDLY THIS REPORTER TOLD JOHN HE WOULD HANDLE ALL PUBLICITY PERTAINING TO THIS FUND RAISING AND JOHN SAID THEY WERE JUST LOOKING MEMPHIS OVER AND MIGHT RENT A ROOM OR AN OFFICE WHILE HERE. JOHN FURTHER STATED THEY WERE EITHER GOING TO BIRMINGHAM OR WERE GOING TO CALL THERE TO SEE IF JAMES EARL RAY'S ATTORNEY WAS BACK FROM LONDON.

JOHN RAY FURNISHED PERSONAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND DATA TO INTERVIEWING OFFICERS, WHICH AGREES WITH THAT PREVIOUSLY COLLECTED BY BUREAU.

JERRY RAY INTERVIEWED BY MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICERS IN PRESENCE OF JOHN. REPORTEDLY, JERRY COULD NOT GIVE LEGITIMATE REASON FOR BEING IN MEMPHIS EXCEPT HE THOUGHT JAMES EARL RAY MIGHT COME BACK TO MEMPHIS EARLY AND HE WANTED TO SEE HIM IF HE DID. JERRY SAID HE WAS LEAVING MEMPHIS AND GOING TO KNOXVILLE, TENN., WHICH HE LATER CHANGED TO SAY WHITESBURG, TENN. TO VISIT HIS

CC-MR. ROSEN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SIX YEAR OLD SON BY A PRIOR MARRIAGE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY IN POSSESSION JERRY RAY WAS PHOTOSTATIED BY MEMPHIS ~~PD~~ POLICE. COPIES BEING REVIEWED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ANY INFO OF PERTINENCE THEREIN. SOME DATA CONSISTED OF CAR IDENTIFICATION CARD AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH MARJORIE FETTERS AND VARIOUS NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS. AIRMAIL COPY TO ST. LOUIS. P.

END.

JTM

FBI WASH DC

P

CC- MR. SULLIVAN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D-TELETYPE UNIT
F B I
JUL 9 10 15 PM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) DATE: 7/9/68

FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

OO: MEMPHIS

RE: HUGH MERLON HENSON

The San Antonio Police Department advised the San Antonio Division that on 7/4/68, HUGH MERLON HENSON of 1503 Santa Anna, San Antonio, Texas, stated to police officers that he had killed Dr. MARTIN L. KING, JR. The police officer's report reflected that after talking to HENSON he appeared to be drunk. He smelled of intoxicating beverages, his speech was slurred, and eyes were bloodshot. He was warned about making a false report. As the officers were leaving, HENSON came outside the house and wanted to fight. He was arrested for drunk and was taken to jail.

HENSON was interviewed by agents of this office and advised that he had been arrested on 7/4/68. He said he did not make the statement that he had killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He said he could not recall making such a statement. He further advised he did not kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and that he did not know JAMES EARL RAY.

This is being furnished for information purposes and no further action is being taken in this phase of this investigation.

REC- 60

2-Bureau (AM,RM)
2-Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
2-SA
JMK:csh
(6)

6 JUL 11 1968

54 JUL 17 1968

5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JUL 11 10 30 AM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 11 11 43 AM '68

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 7/10/68

PLAIN TEXT

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel dated 7/3/68, requesting a check at Longines-Wittnauer Watch Company to identify case numbers on a watch of subject RAY.

CHARLES DIAZ, Longines-Wittnauer Watch Company, 580 Fifth Avenue, NYC, advised 7/9/68 the numbers: 8001/11K, are identifying numbers used to designate the model and style of watch in which the case will be used. The numbers are thus of significance only at the assembly stage. Thousands of watches of each model (with the same numbers) are assembled both here and abroad.

He pointed out that because the Wittnauer is an inexpensive watch, no movement number is inscribed and it is not possible to identify the outlet through which any particular watch is sold.

3- Bureau
2- Memphis (44-1987)
1- New York

JPO:jrf
(7)

REC-80 44-38861-4816
EX-116

22 JUL 11 1968

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JUL 11 11 49 AM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 11 11 49 AM '68

NR
7:06 PM
7/10/68
YK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
JUL 10 1968
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLDD

PM 537 URGENT 7-10-68 DJK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN, CR.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE JULY NINE LAST.

DEMIS NICHOLAS, DEPUTY, MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ADVISED HE HAD TALKED TO WILLIE LEE, ASSOCIATE OF JOHN MC CLINTOCK AND HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON, AND INFORMED LEE THAT THE FBI WAS INTERESTED IN TALKING TO HIM, AT WHICH TIME LEE STATED HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE FBI IN ALTON, ILLINOIS, IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY JOE HEINTZ (PHONETIC) HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE IN THE ALTON AREA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY JOE HEINTZ AND INTERVIEW WILLIE LEE.

AIRMAIL COPY SENT ST. LOUIS, MEMPHIS AND CHICAGO. 44-38861-4817

END

LPT

FBI WASH DC

P

EX-116

REC-60

JUL 11 1968

FBI

54 JUL 17 1968

Cc. Long

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D-TELETYPE UNIT
F B I
RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5710
JUL 10 7 01 PM '68
JUL 10 6 40 PM '68
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JUL 11 7 15 AM '68
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ND
8:10PM
7/11/68
YK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 11 1968

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

620 PM 7/11/68 URGENT CEKG

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)*

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)*

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JULY TEN LAST.-

PAMELA JANE SCHNEIDER, EX-WIFE OF JOHN MC CLINTOCH ADVISED JULY TEN LAST MC CLINTOCH AND SHE LEFT FOR CALIFORNIA APPROXIMATELY JULY FIFTEEN SIXTYSEVEN AND RETURNED TO ALTON, ILLINOIS IN NOVEMBER, SIXTYSEVEN. SHE ADVISED SHE BELIEVED HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON WAS LIVING WITH WILLIE LEE IN THE ELEVEN HUNDRED BLOCK OF EAST FOURTH STREET, ALTON IN JULY AND AUGUST, SIXTYSEVEN. SHE SAID SHE NEVER KNEW COVINGTON OR LEE TO WEAR A HAT OR COVERALLS. SHE SAID SHE HAD HEARD COVINGTON HAD A GUN BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT KIND AND HAD NEVER SEEN IT.- SHE DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH COVINGTON VERY MUCH AND HAD NEVER HEARD HER HUSBAND SPEAK OF ANY BANK ROBBERIES IN HER PRESENCE.- SHE STATED SHE NEVER KNEW OF EITHER OF THEM TO POSSESS MUCH MONEY.

REC-60 44-38861-4818

EX-116

10 JUL 12 1968

END PAGE ONE

54 JUL 17 1968

CC. Long

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 12 7 23 AM '68

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5710

JUL 11 8 07 PM '68

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE TWO

SI 44-561

SPRINGFIELD WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW WILLIE LEE AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED. - P.-

END

~~CORR PAGE ONE WORD ONE SHL BE PAMELA~~

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

P

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED

TELETYPE UNIT

JUL 11 7 28 PM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

7-11-68

Airtel

1 - Mr. McDonough

To: SACs, Memphis
Little Rock

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

ReJNairtel dated 7-5-68.

If not already done, handle leads and surepsor LHMs immediately.

1 - Jackson (info)

EJM:jlh
(7)

MAILED 4
JUL 11 1968
COMM-FBI

REC-60 44-38861-4819

JUL 12 1968

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

54 JUL 17 1968

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) DATE: 7/8/68

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (44-387)(44-394) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

KENSALT
OO: Los Angeles

Re San Diego airtels to the Bureau 6/17/68; Bureau letter to San Diego, 6/21/68; and Bureau airtel to San Diego, 6/21/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 7 copies of an LHM captioned GEORGE ROBERT LETSINGER, for appropriate dissemination. Enclosed for each office receiving this communication are two copies of the same LHM.

Dissemination has been made locally to U.S. Secret Service.

ENCLOSURE - cc 2260

REC 13

ST-113

3 - Bureau (Encl. 7) (RM)
2 - Memphis (Encl. 2)
2 - Los Angeles (Encl. 2)
2 - Richmond (Encl. 2)
2 - Seattle (Encl. 2)
4 - San Diego (2 - 44-387)
(2 - 44-394)

AWO:kdw
(15)

20 JUL 11 1968

UNREC COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

chu 7-17
Chu

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVES

JUL 17 [illegible] PM '68
GENERAL INVES

JUL 18 [illegible] PM '68

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 17 2 54 PM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

San Diego, California
July 8, 1968

GEORGE ROBERT LETSINGER

On June 17, 1968, handprinting obtained from George Robert Letsinger along with the anonymous note received by Assistant Postmaster Joseph Forror, June 11, 1968, was forwarded to the Bureau Laboratory.

On June 21, 1968, the FBI Laboratory advised that no latent impressions of value were developed on the note or on the known handprinting of George Robert Letsinger.

On June 21, 1968, the Bureau advised that a handwriting examination of the anonymous note obtained by Assistant Postmaster Joseph Forror, June 11, 1968, was prepared by George Robert Letsinger as determined from the known handprinting of George Robert Letsinger.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

3 cc destroyed
11/8/01 upk

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 7/5/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY DEFENSE FUND, Columbus, Texas", two copies for Memphis for their information.

The first source is GARY DELAUNE, reporter, radio station KNUZ, Houston, Texas.

The second source is FORREST BROOKS, Post Master, U.S. Post Office, Columbus, Texas.

3 - Bureau (Enc-5) ENCLOSURE
2 - Memphis (Enc-2)
1 - Houston
JSW/sjm
(6)

EX-114

REC 67

44-38861-4821

22 JUL 8 1968

FBI

O.C. Bishop

1cc Sent to Mr. Johnson
1cc Sent to Mr. Pollak
1cc Rept for CR unit
7-11-68 REL/hdc
By 6-94 (6)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

54 JUL 17 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

JUL 8 11 58 AM '66

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 8 12 20 PM '66

JUL 11 1966

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Houston, Texas
July 5, 1968

James Earl Ray Defense Fund
Columbus, Texas

On July 3, 1968 a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that he had received information that person by the name of Lonnal Wilhelm has started a defense fund for James Earl Ray. According to the source funds solicited are to be sent to Columbus, Texas.

B. APPROX.

On July 3, 1968 another source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised as follows:

On June 26, 1968, Lonnal Wilhelm, P.O. Box 686, Columbus, Texas with residence at 431 Front Street, Columbus, applied and received P.O. Box 602, U.S. Post Office, Columbus, Texas. Wilhelm reportedly listed the purpose for having P.O. Box 602 as being for the receipt of funds for the defense of James Earl Ray suspected murderer of Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. Lonnal Wilhelm, a white male, is approximately 30 years old, married and is the son of Mrs. Fred M. Bentsen, P.O. Box 686, Columbus, Texas, residence 431 Front Street, Columbus, Texas. Mrs. Fred M. Bentsen, also known as Loyce Bentsen arrived at Columbus, Texas in August, 1967 from Harlingin, Texas.

Wilhelm

Lonnal Wilhelm's Texas driver's license number is 0072544 and Mrs. Fred M. Bentsen's Texas driver's license is 0022346.

On July 3, 1968, Frances Davinport, Credit Bureau of Columbus, Texas, advised that on June 26, 1968 she had a local inquiry on a L.E. Wilhelm who was reported to be self-employed as a nurseryman.

On July 3, 1968 a check of records of Colorado County Sheriff's Office, Columbus, Texas, revealed no information identifiable with the name Lonnal Wilhelm.

- 4831

ENCLOSURE

1-

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Re: James Earl Ray Defense Fund

Records of the FBI, Houston, Texas contain no information identifiable with the name Lonnal Wilhelm.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1-336 (Rev. 12-10-63)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537

REPORT

of the

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 44-1574

FBI FILE NO. 44-38861

LATENT CASE NO. 91075

July 11, 1968

TO: SAC, Los Angeles

RE: [illegible]

REFERENCE: Airtel 7/1/68

EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Los Angeles

SPECIMENS: Letter, Q305

Seven latent fingerprints of value developed on letter, Q305.

Latent fingerprints not identical with fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #4039420, or Special Agent Leon J. Meyer.

On basis of information furnished, no fingerprint record located here for Ronald G. Newitson.

Specimen enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

Enc.

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

1 - Birmingham (44-1745)

1 - SAC (44-703)

1 - Mr. Rosen

LNW:slc

(10)

MAILED 8 JUL 11 1968 COMM-FBI

REC 6

44-38861-4822

JUL 12 1968

John Edgar Hoover, Director

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 12 10 27 AM '68

RECEIVED
JUL 12 5 30 AM '68
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

7-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DATE RECORDED 7/8/68-3:10 p. m. DATE RECEIVED 7/8/68 LAB FILE ro

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis (44-1987)

File # 44-38861
Lab. # D-680705006 JK
LC# 91075

Examination requested by: SAC, Los Angeles (44-1574) Airtel 7/1/68

Examination requested: Document, Fingerprint

Date received: 7/5/68

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Mortimer Bailey

Named for elimination:
RONALD G. HEWITSON
SA LEON J. MEYER

No lats dev, I 7/8 BWE
Q385 to photo 7/8 - nin
7 lat. fgprts. of val. dev. on Q385 (nin) - no add. lat. SA 7/9
lat. fgprts. not ∅ fgprts. of James Earl Ray, FBI# 405-942-G
or SA Meyer. No record loc. for Hewitson 7/9/68 BWE
Detained - Spec. returned enc. - Lab. rep. sep.

Specimens submitted for examination

Q385 Sheet of paper bearing typewritten letter dated 2/4/68, beginning "I RECENTLY RECEIVED....." and signed "Eric S. Galt"

Comp. 77 - no ∅ 7/9/68 BWE

2 cc's Memphis (44-1987)
1 cc Birmingham (44-1740)
1 WFO (44-703)
1 c.c. Mr. Rosen

Examination completed 3:00 Time 7/9/68 Date Dictated 7/10/68 Date

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 7/1/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)(ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Enclosed for the Laboratory is a typewritten letter dated 2/4/68 addressed to Mr. HEWITSON and signed by ERIC S. GALT. It is requested that this document be examined for handwriting and typing comparisons with other materials submitted in this matter. This document has been handled only by Mr. HEWITSON and SA LEON J. MEYER.

On 7/1/68 RONALD G. HEWITSON, 9692 Imperial Street, Garden Grove, California, furnished the following information. He advised that he is Sales Manager of the Terene Corporation, 2815 South Halladay Street, Santa Ana, California, and President of the Orange County, California, Chapter, Friends of Rhodesia, P. O. Box 613, Garden Grove, California.

HEWITSON stated that he had recently read a news item indicating that FBI Agents were investigating JAMES EARL RAY's alleged contacts with the American-South African Council, Washington, D. C. He stated that the Friends of Rhodesia work closely with the American-South African Council. He stated that he looked through some of his correspondence and found a letter bearing the signature ERIC S. GALT. This letter is quoted as follows:

Bailey 7/8/68 RO
DAB/[illegible] LC 91075

4 - Bureau (Enc. - 1)(AM-RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)
1 - Birmingham (44-1740)(Info.)(AM)
1 - Washington Field (44-703)(Info.)(AM)
2 - Los Angeles
TJA:CM
(10)

CARBON COPY

Read 7-5-68

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JUL 8 2 15 PM '60

REC'D - LFPS
FBI

"2-4-68

"DEAR MR. HEWITSON.

"I RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOUR OFFICE IN REPLY TO A LETTER I HAD SENT TO YOU REQUESTING INFORMATION ON RHODESIA, THE LETTER CLARIFED MOST OF MY QUESTIONS REGARDING IMMIGRATION. SUCH AS PASSPORT. IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO LEAVE BEFORE NOVEMBER BUT WANTED THE INFORMATION BEFORE HAND, ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU SEND I WOULD APPREACITE. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO RHODESIAN COMMENTARY.

"SINCERELY,

"ERIC S. GALT

"1535-N-SERRANO
"L.A. CALIF. 90027.

/s/ "ERIC S. GALT"

HEWITSON stated that he would review his files to determine if any other communications from GALT are contained therein. He stated he was the only person to handle the enclosed letter, as he has no secretary. He stated that the note "ANS" appearing on the lower portion of this letter was made by him.

HEWITSON stated his organization has received much publicity in the Los Angeles area resulting from exposure on the JOE PYNE Show, a daily late nighttime television talk show. He stated the address of the Friends of Rhodesia appears on its literature, which is widely circulated.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 7/8/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: Memphis)

Re New Orleans airtel to Bureau, 6/27/68; and FBI Laboratory report dated 6/26/68, the latter which concludes that the handwriting on the Palmer Writers School pamphlet submitted under the name "ERIC A. WAUGH" which bore handprinting, was not prepared by JAMES EARL RAY.

In view of the foregoing, New Orleans will not review INS file in name of DEREK A. WAUGH or conduct credit and criminal checks in that name.

(3) - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Birmingham (44-1740)(Info)
2 - New Orleans
EJC:jah
(8)

157-110
REC 67

44-38861-4823

15 JUL 10 1968

C. C. - Bishop

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

61 JUL 17 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JUL 10 12 35 PM '68

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
JUL 10 11 09 AM '68
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 6/28/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

RECEIVED
DEVELOPED 19-135 RDD 2 July
PRINTED
ENLARGEMENTS BRK DCT @ 30 7/9/68
COPIED
INSPECTED

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTENTION: MECHANICAL SECTION

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(P)

MURKIN

Under date of 6/17/68, the Birmingham Office was requested by Supervisor CLEM MC GOWAN, Civil Rights Division of the Bureau, to attempt photographing of registration cards of guests of all motels and hotels in the Birmingham area for the date 3/29/68. This particular date was considered pertinent since subject RAY first contacted the Aeromarine Supply Company of Birmingham relative to the purchase of a rifle on that date, and returned on 3/30/68, to exchange the purchased rifle for another one. It was not known where he may have stayed during that period in Birmingham.

It was also suggested that a comparison of the names of individuals registered at Birmingham on the night of 3/29/68, might result in a simular names of an individuals who may have been registered at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, during the time that RAY was registered.

Bulky Enclosure PEB 12/1/76

Photo sent to Birmingham 7/12/68 hg

4 - Bureau (AM-RM)
(1 - Package)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Birmingham

REC-23 44-38861-

HAS:cap
(8)

ENCLOSURE

22 JUL 15 1968

[redacted]

"ENCLOSURE IN BULKY ROOM"
1B 873 JEH

[redacted]

THREE

JUL 30 1968

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

59 JUL 18 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JUL 1968

JUL 2 9 20 AM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

BH 44-1740

Photographing of all available registration cards in the Birmingham area motels and hotels was instituted on 6/19/68, and completed 6/26/68.

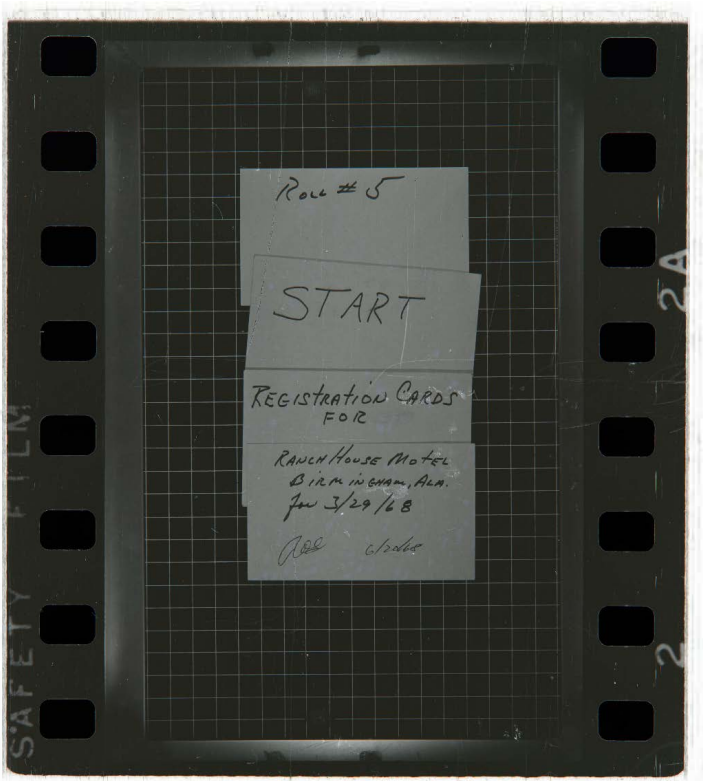
Being transmitted under separate package are eleven rolls of undeveloped Kodak Panatomic-X black and white film, of which ten are thirtysix exposures and one is twenty exposures. Also transmitted is one developed strip of thirtysix exposures of Roll #7, which was developed locally to verify photographic efforts.

The Mechanical Section is requested to make two 8" X 10" prints of each frame of the film. The enlarged prints are being requested since each frame contains multiple photographs of registration cards, and the larger prints would be necessary for viewing.

The rolls of film are numbered on the film itself and it is requested that the prints made from each roll be identified or maintained in packets of each roll in order that they might be readily identified with the photographic log being maintained in the Birmingham Office. The pencilled numbers on the cases of each roll are not pertinent. The prints should be maintained in each packet in chronological order and if possible numbered as such.

In accordance with request of Supervisor MC GOWAN, one set of the developed prints should be furnished to him, and the other set forwarded to the Birmingham Office. Please expedite.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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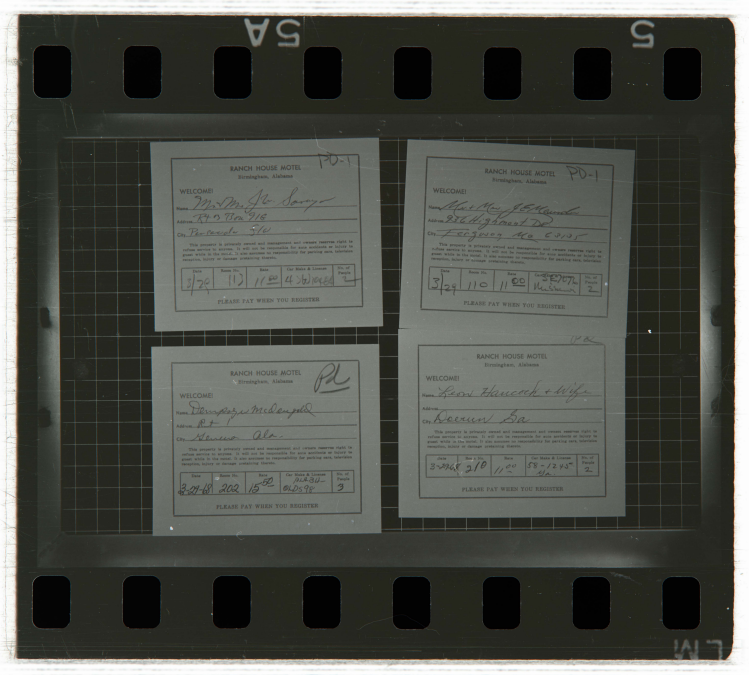

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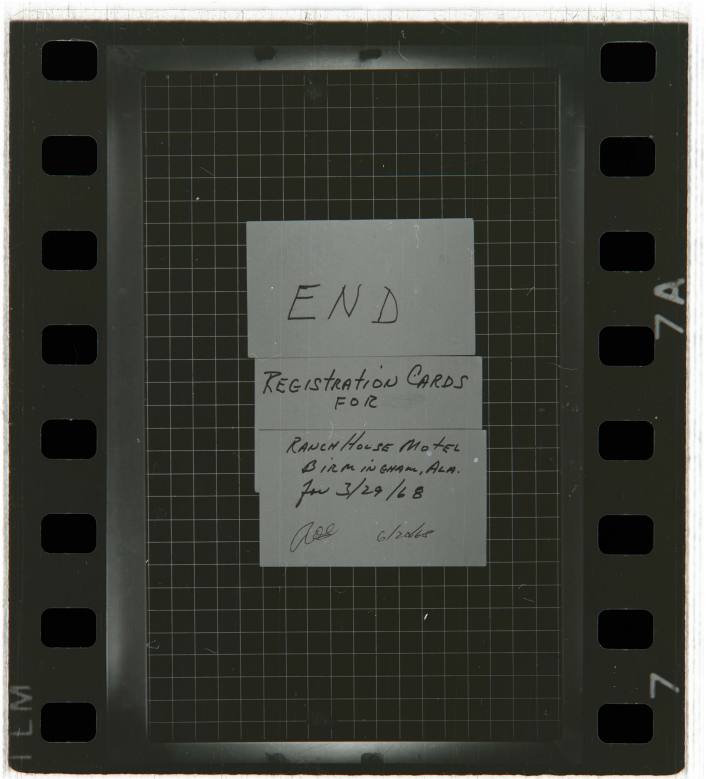

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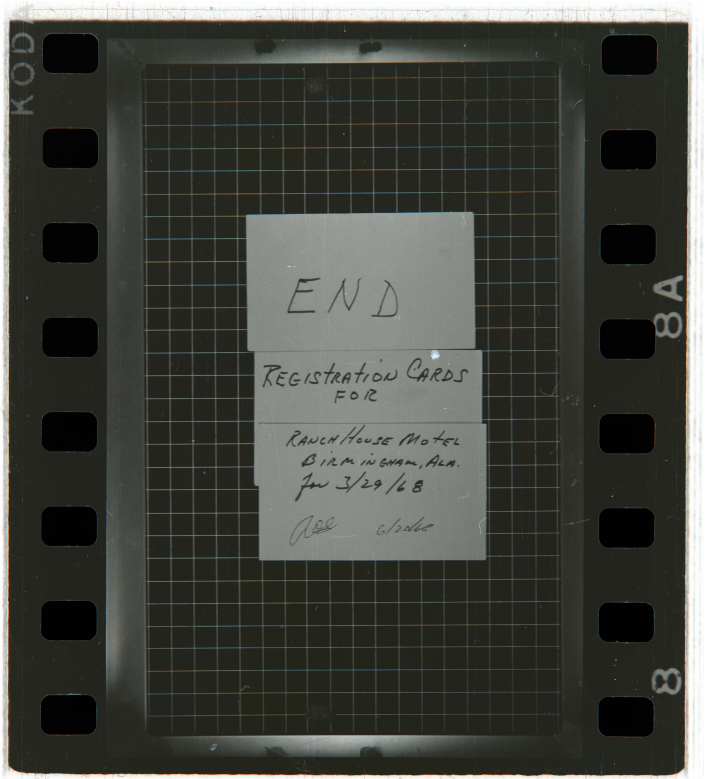

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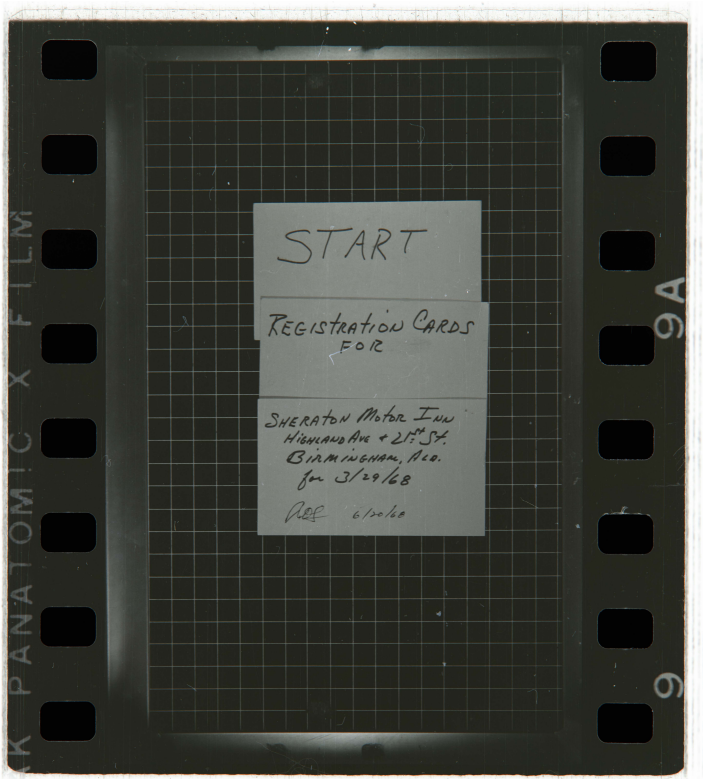

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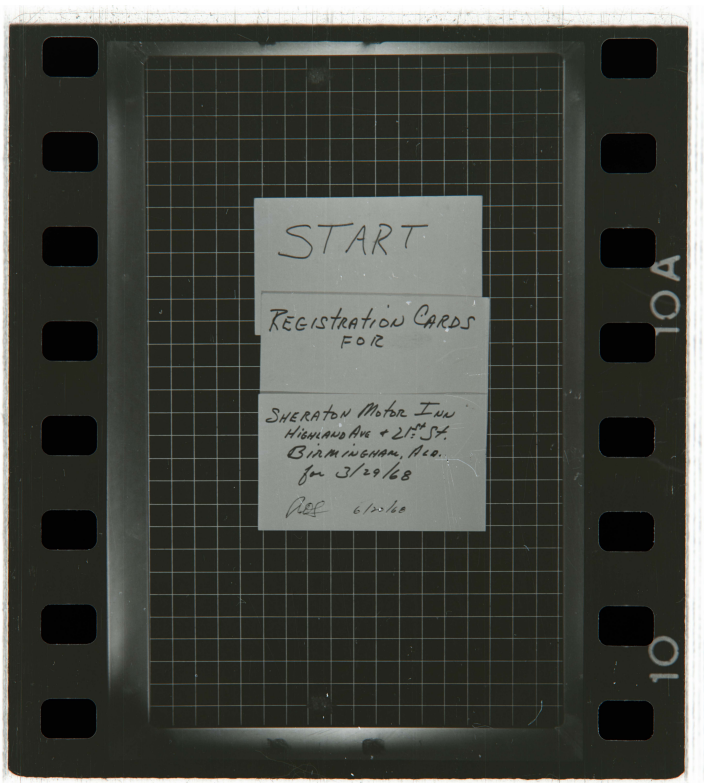

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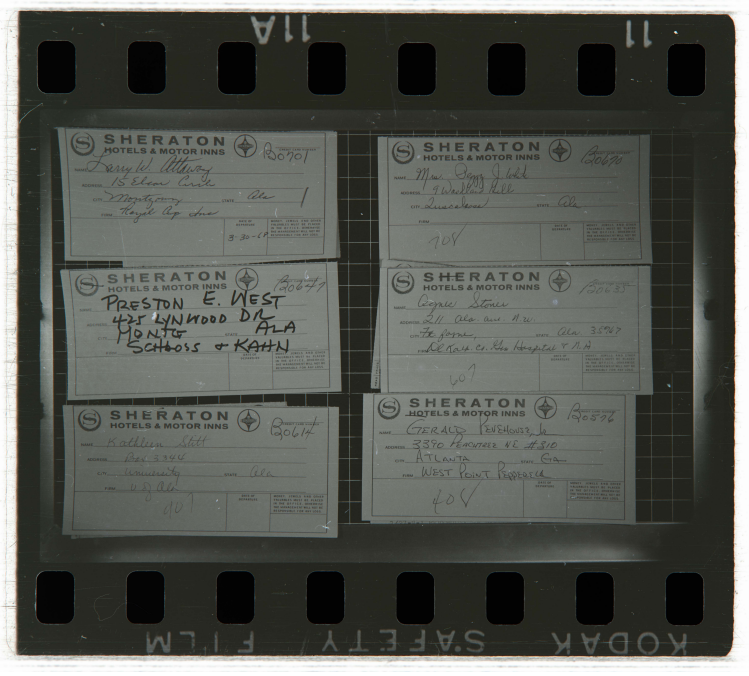

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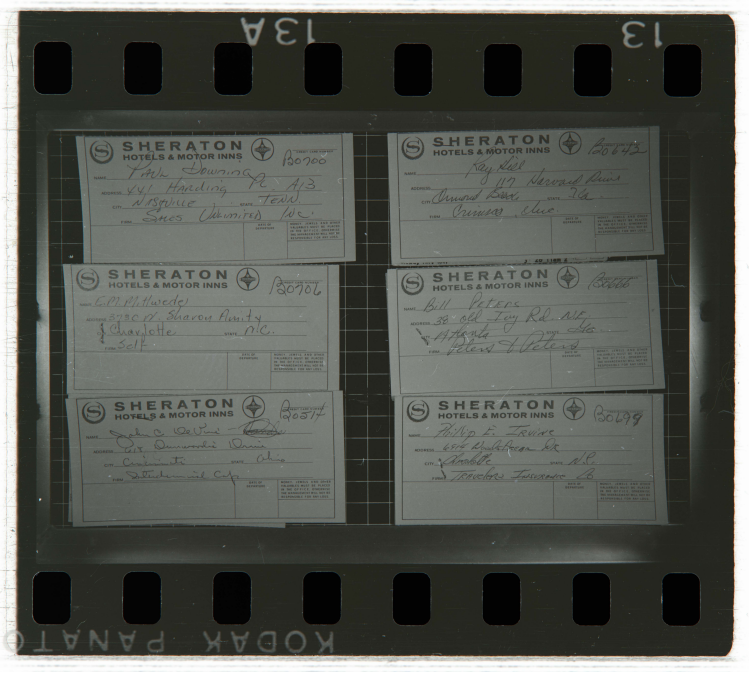

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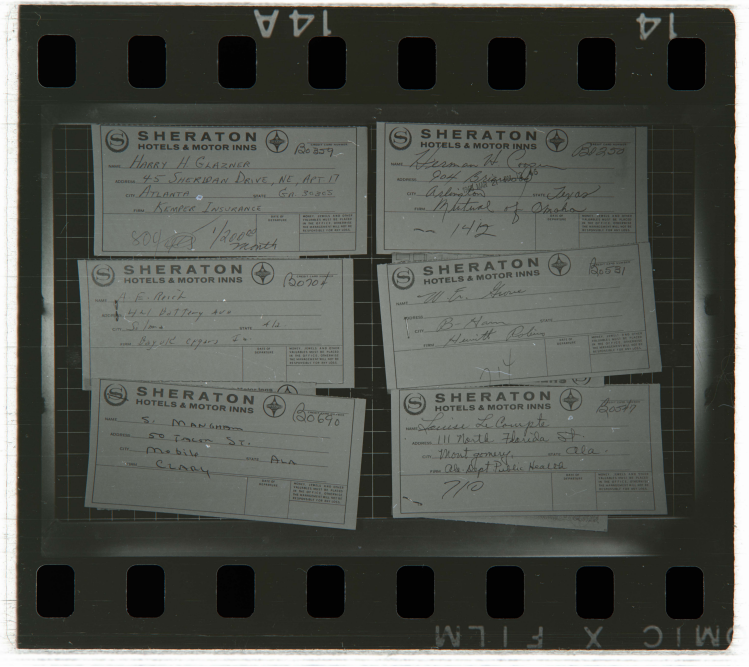

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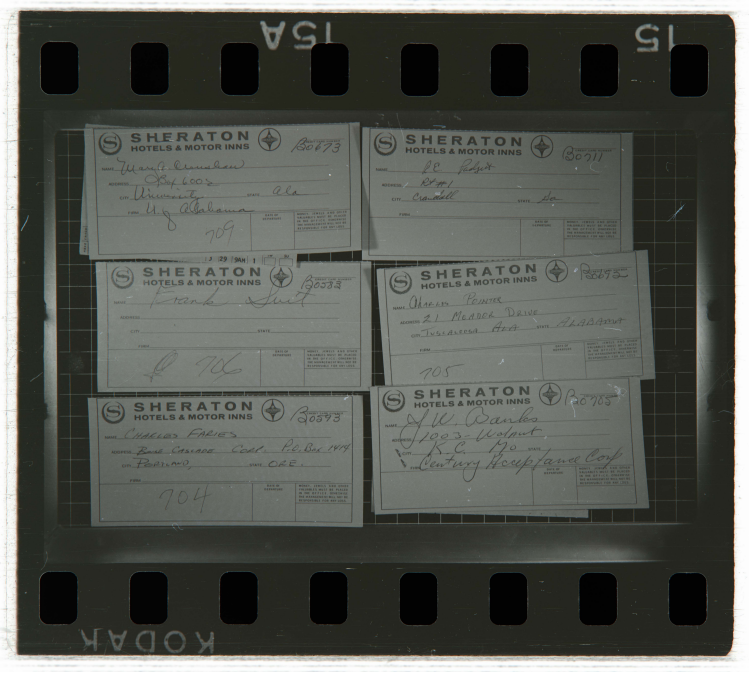

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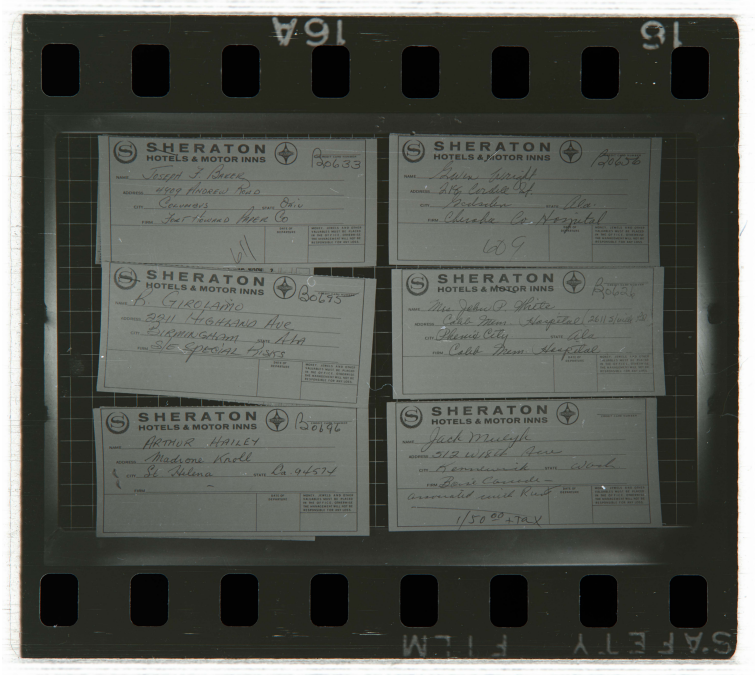

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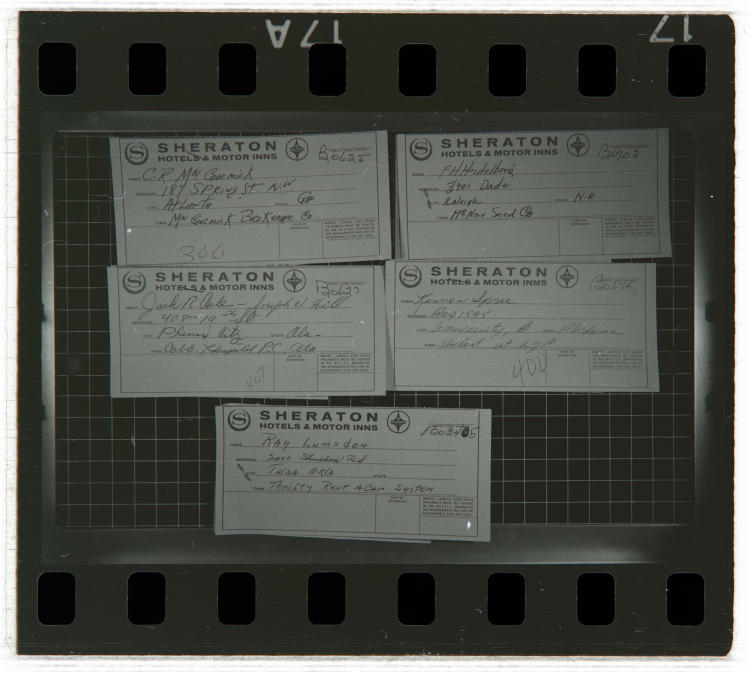

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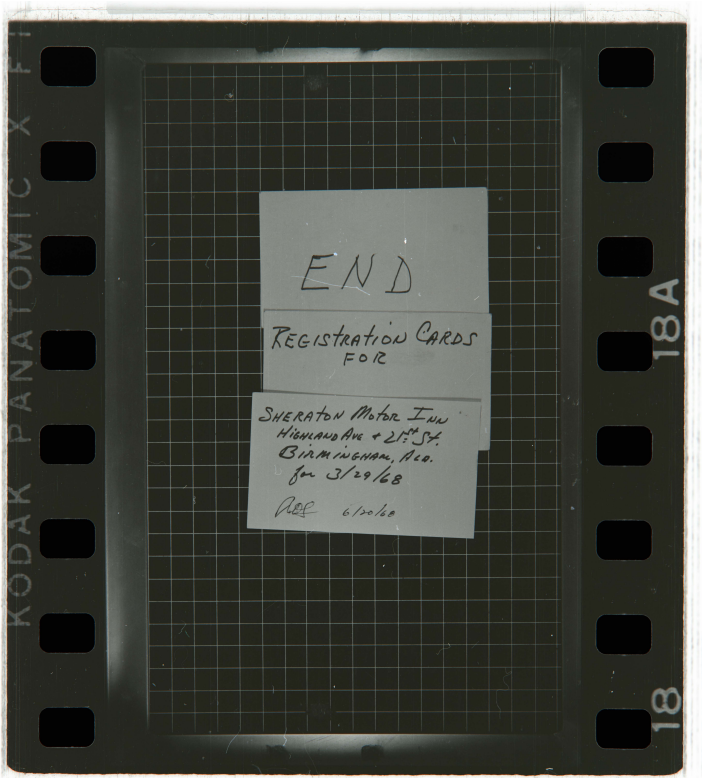

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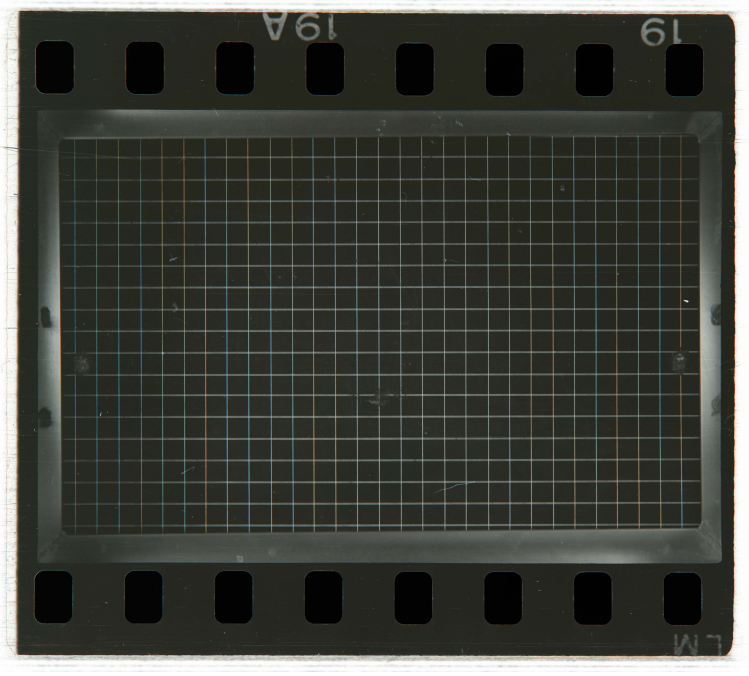

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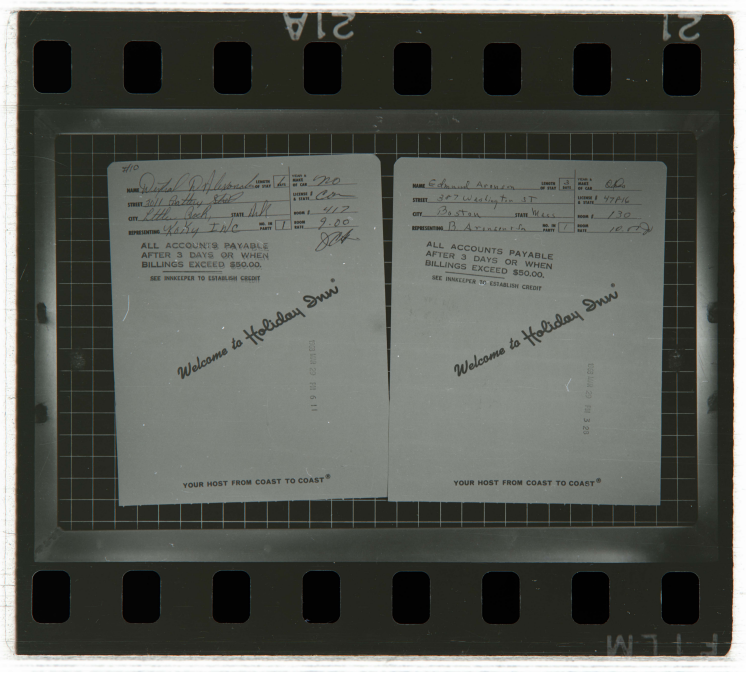

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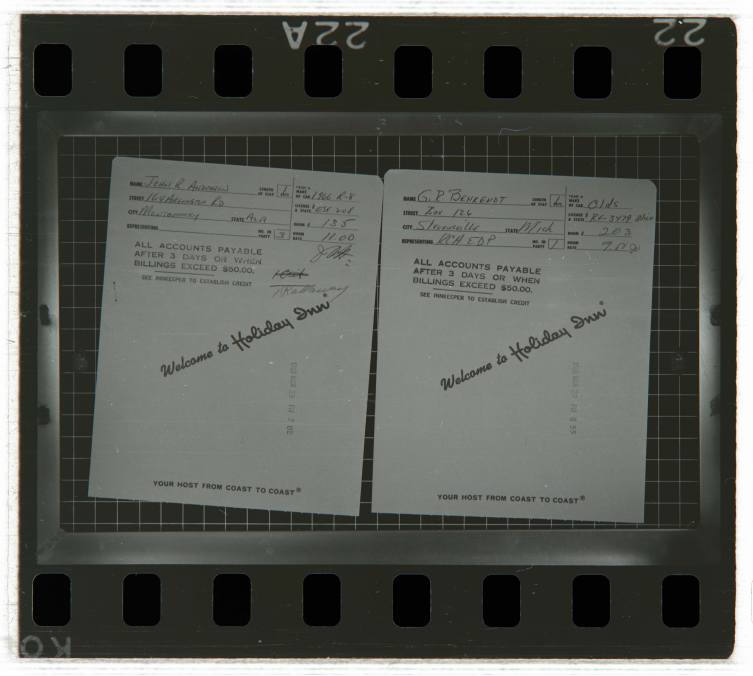

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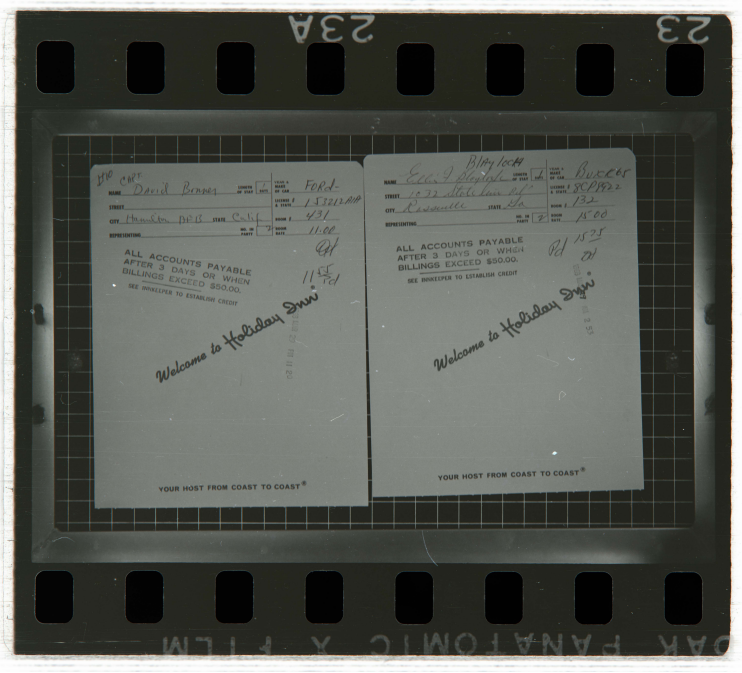

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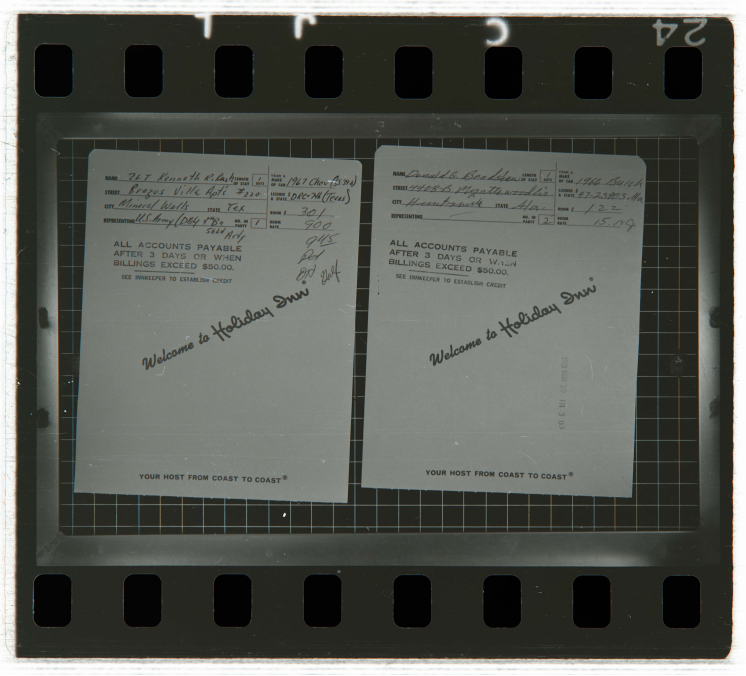

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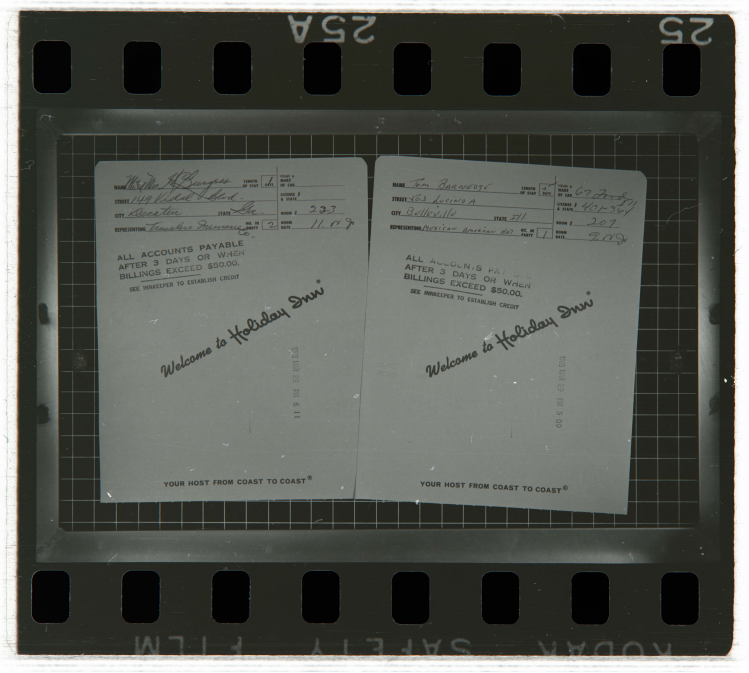

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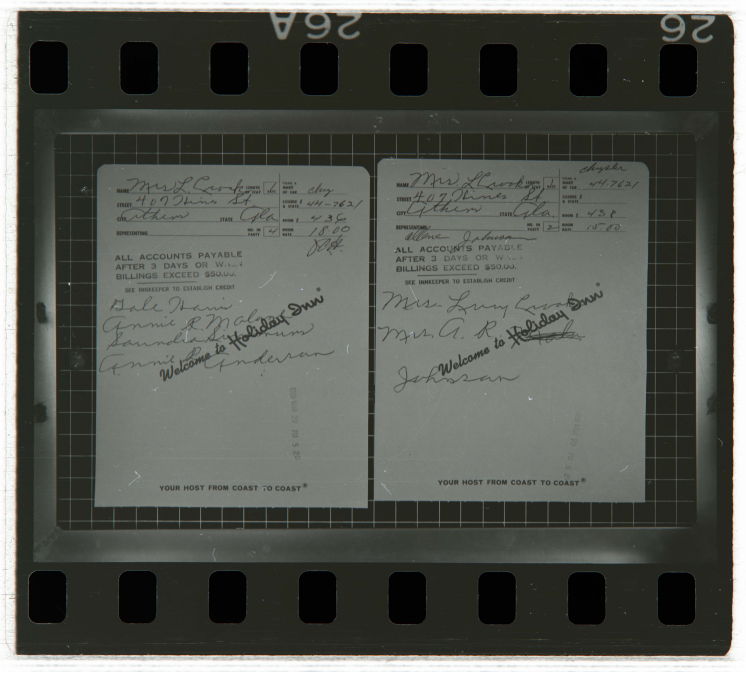

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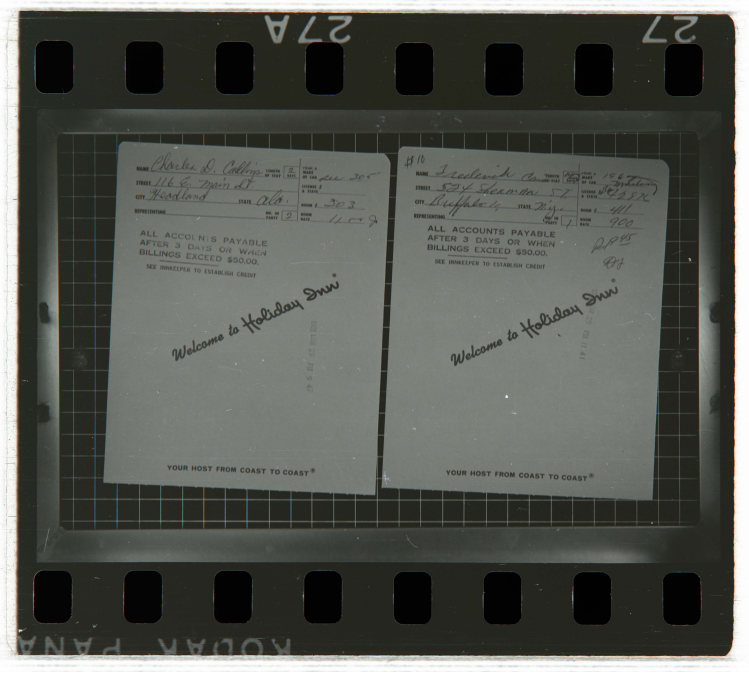

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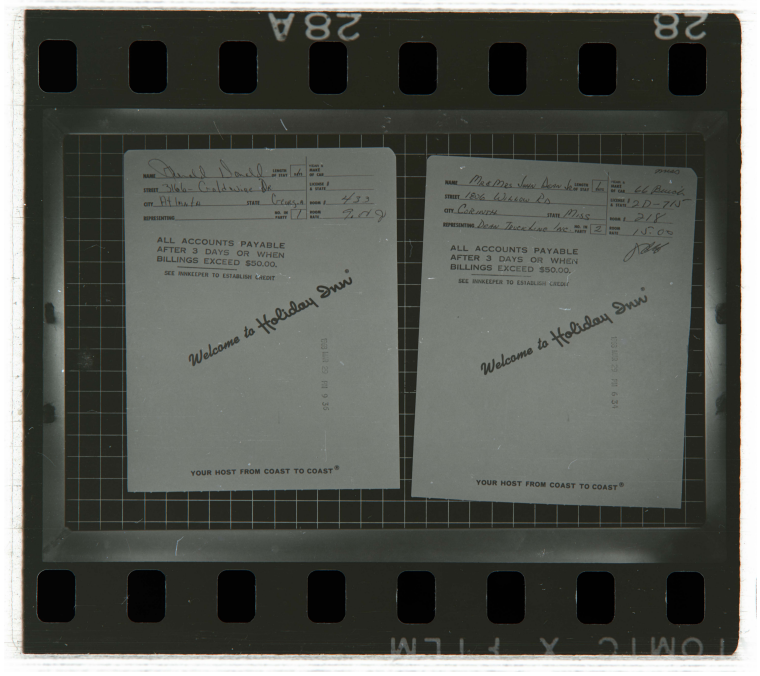

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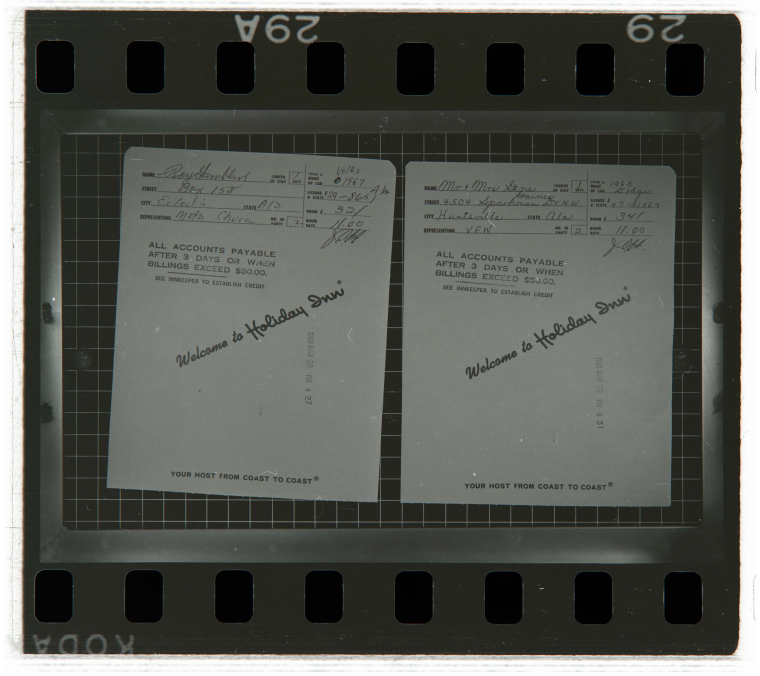

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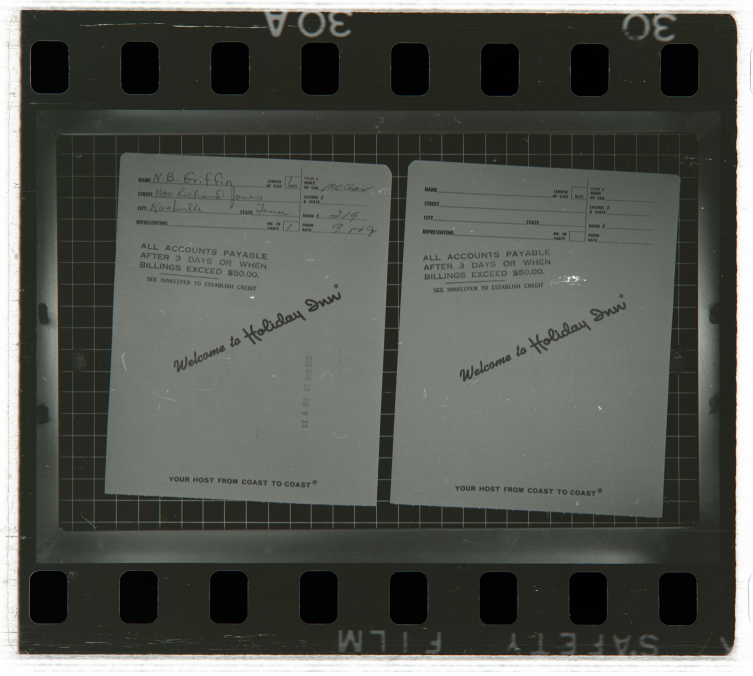

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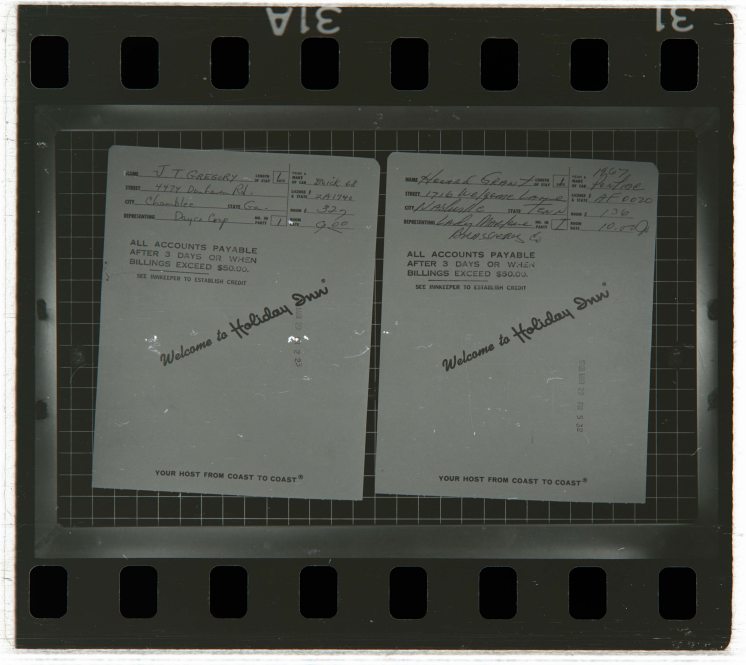

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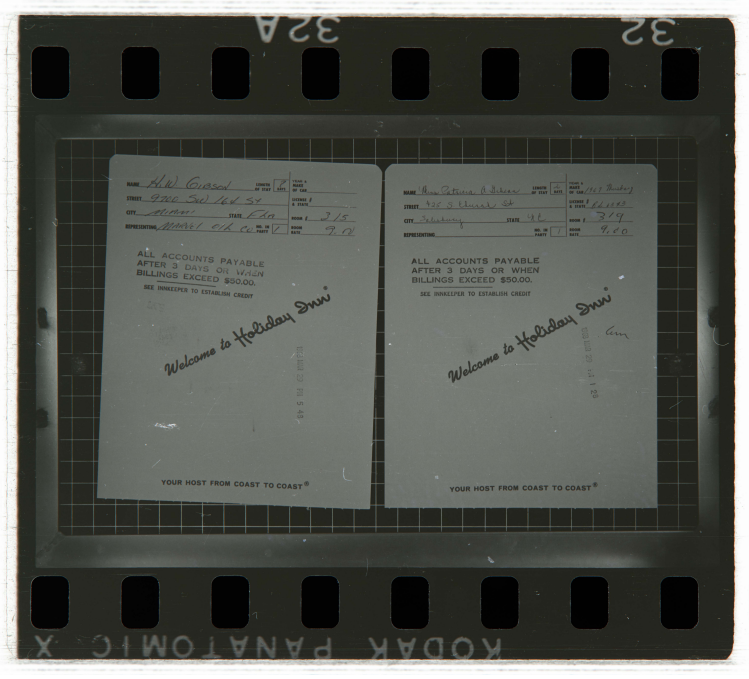

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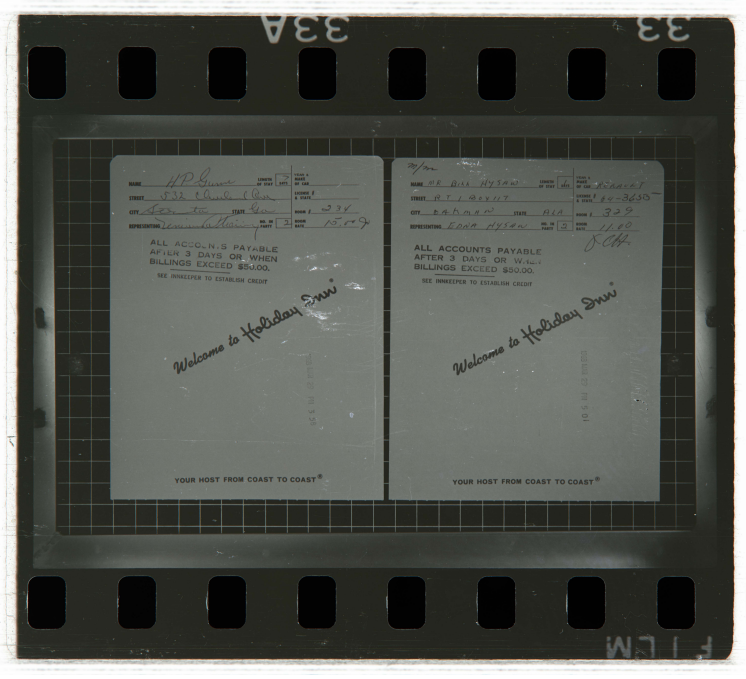

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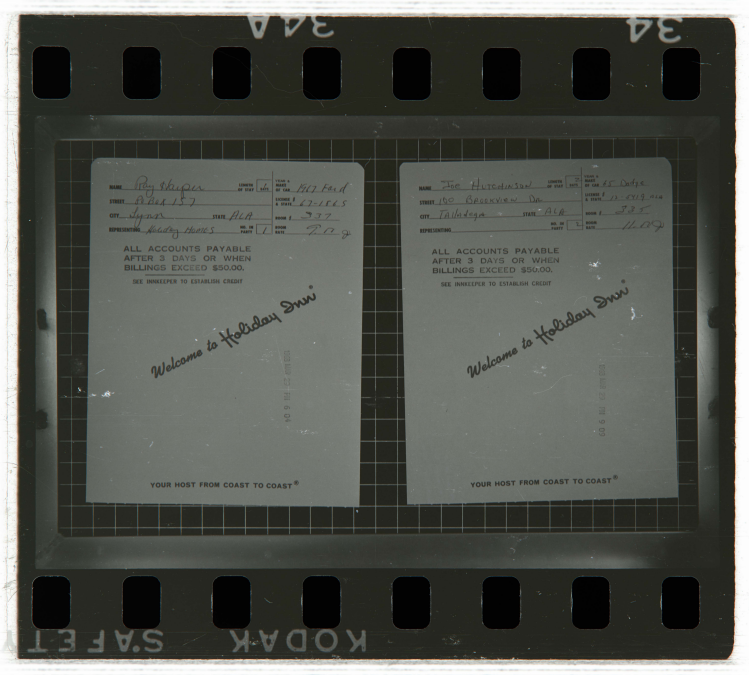

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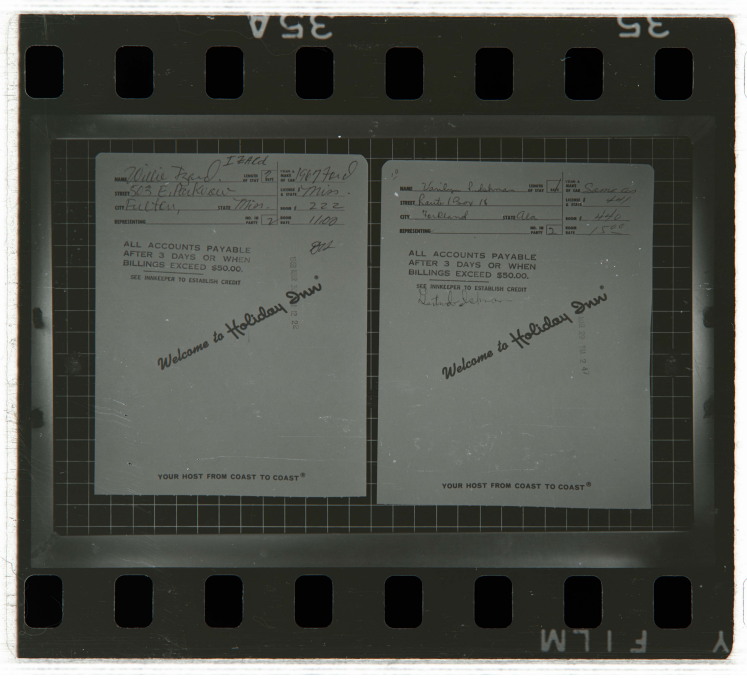

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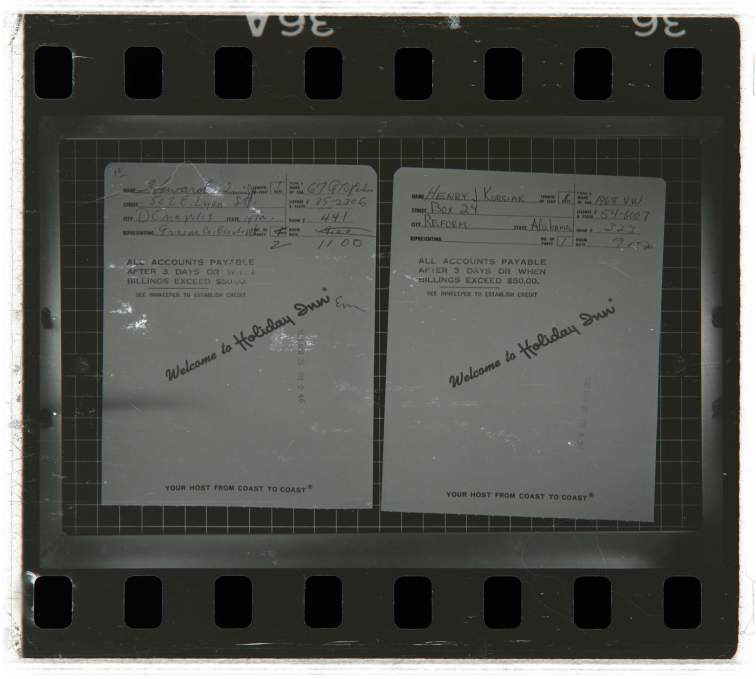

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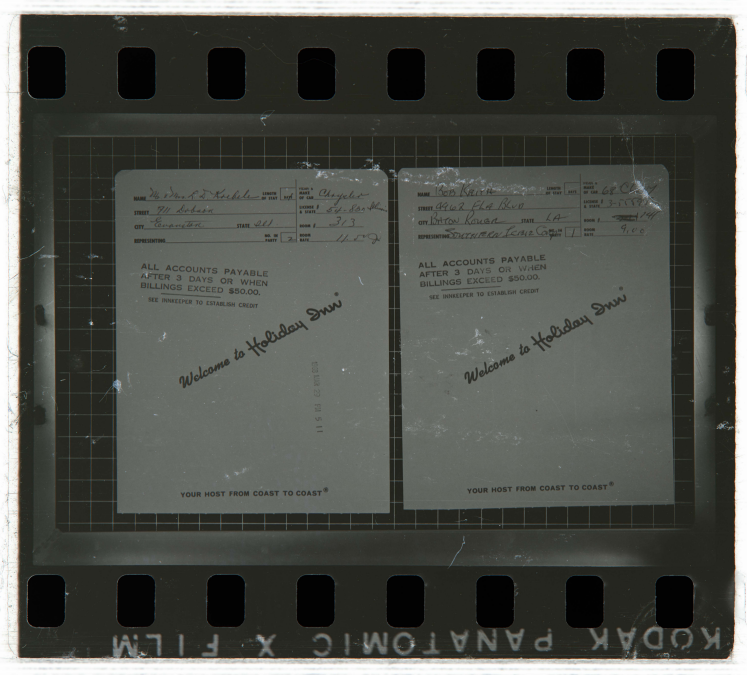

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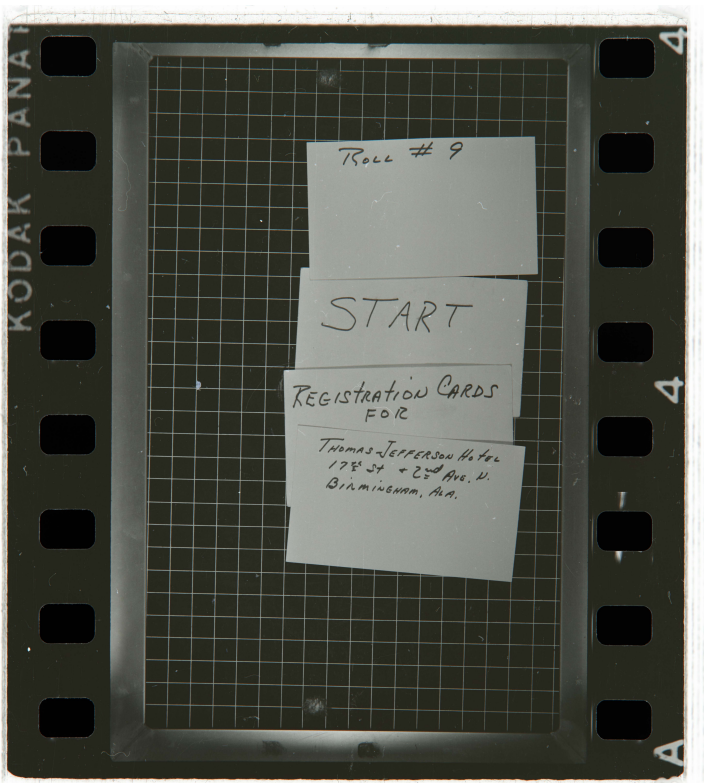

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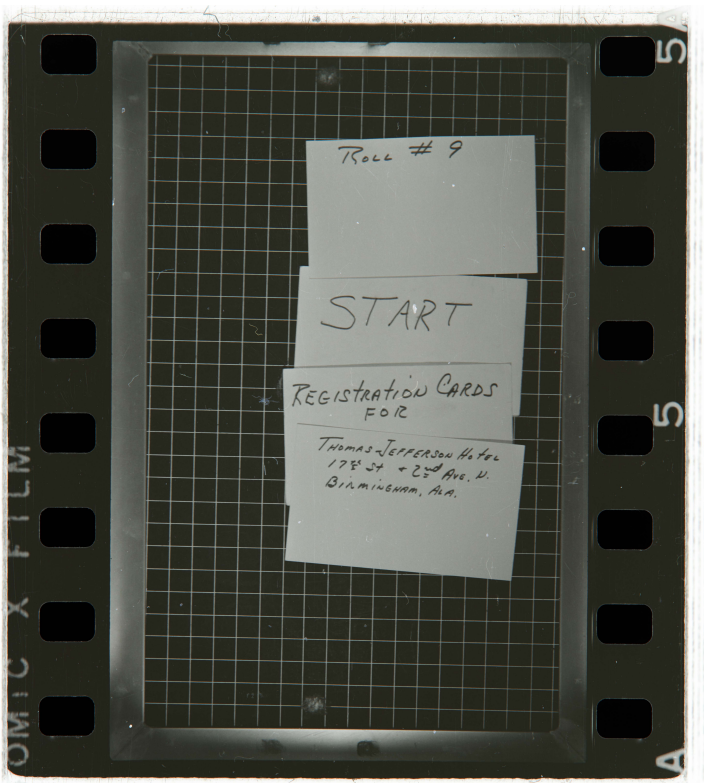

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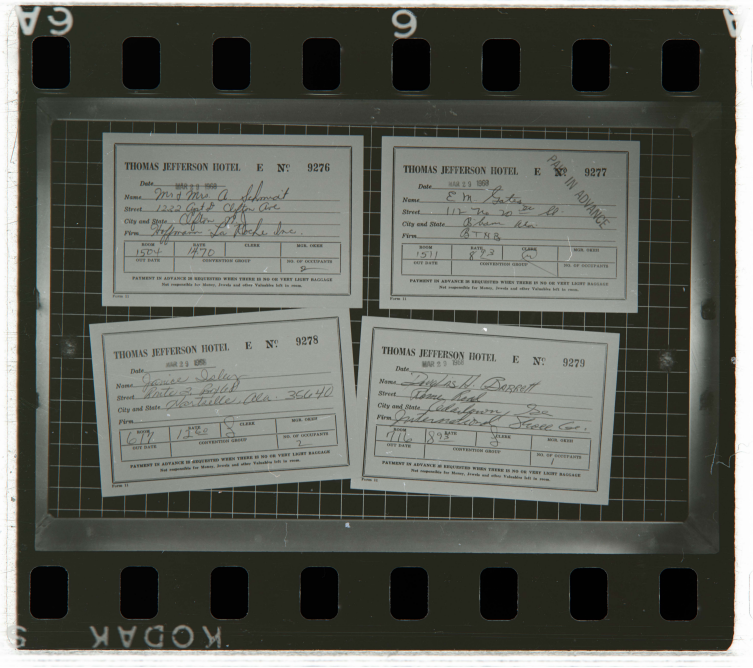

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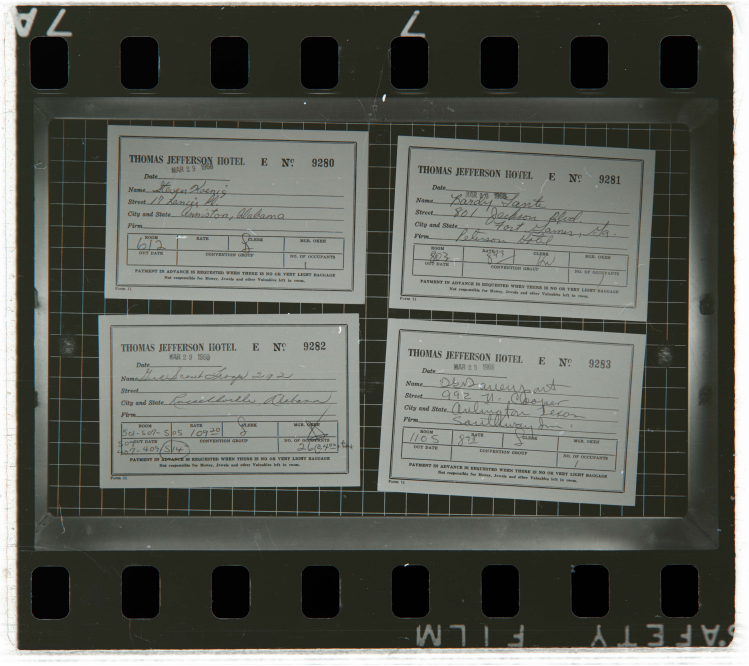

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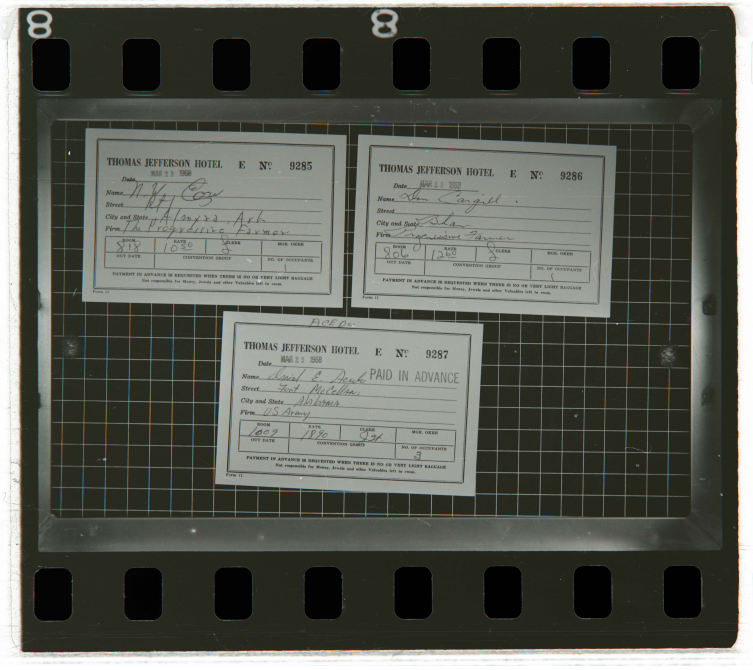

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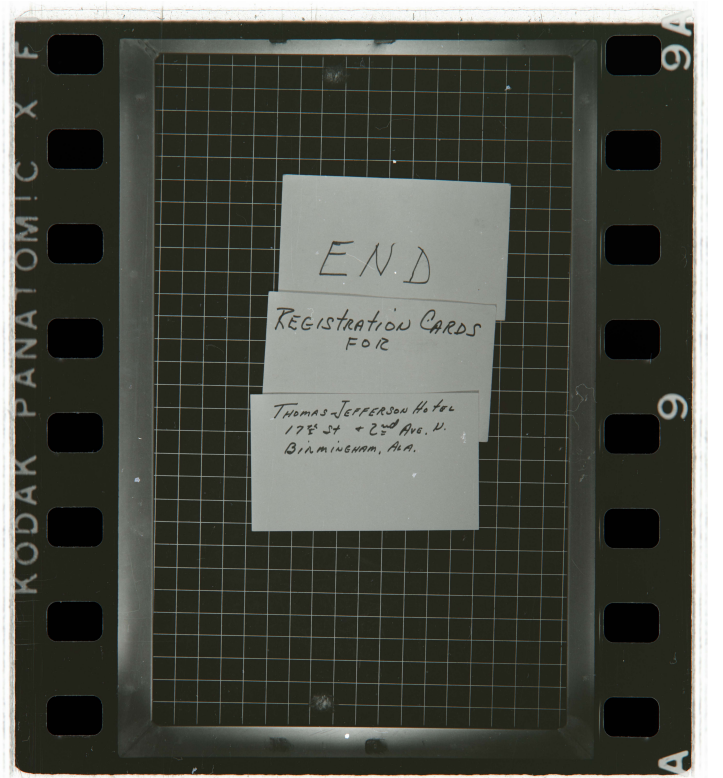

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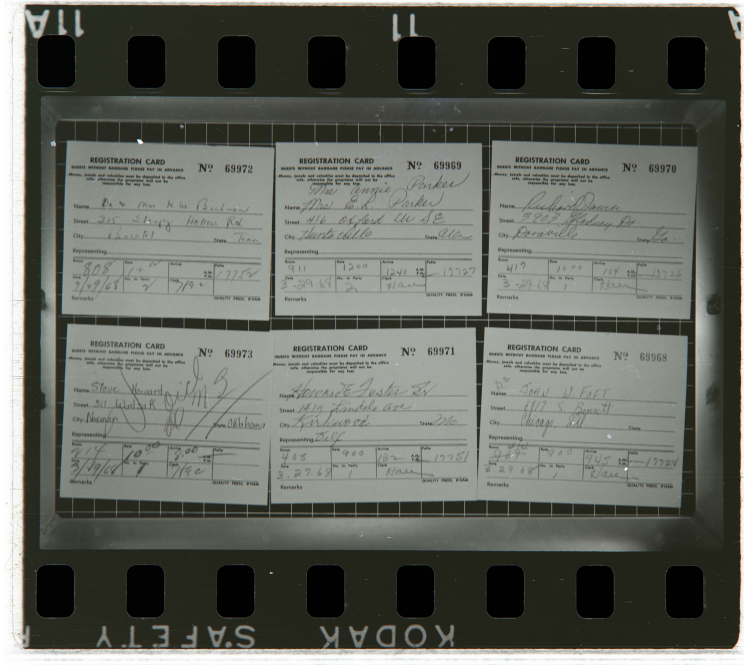

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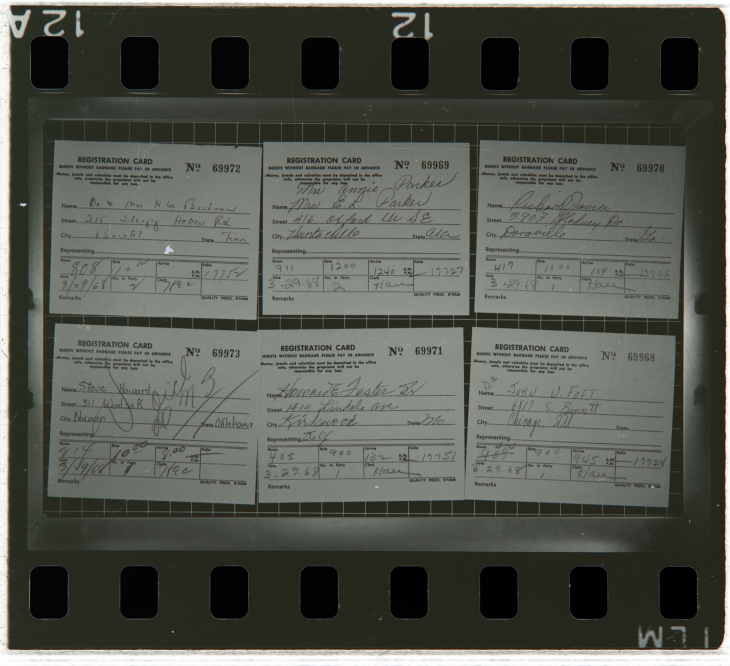

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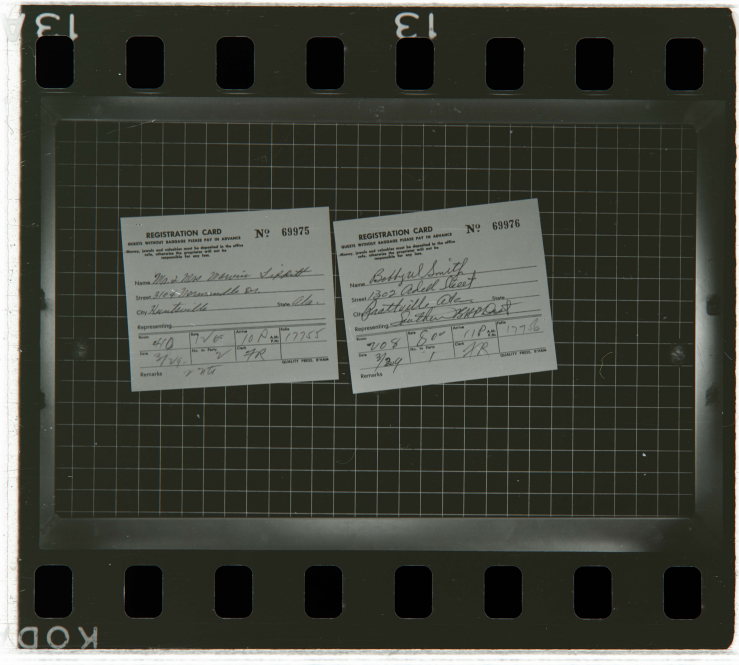

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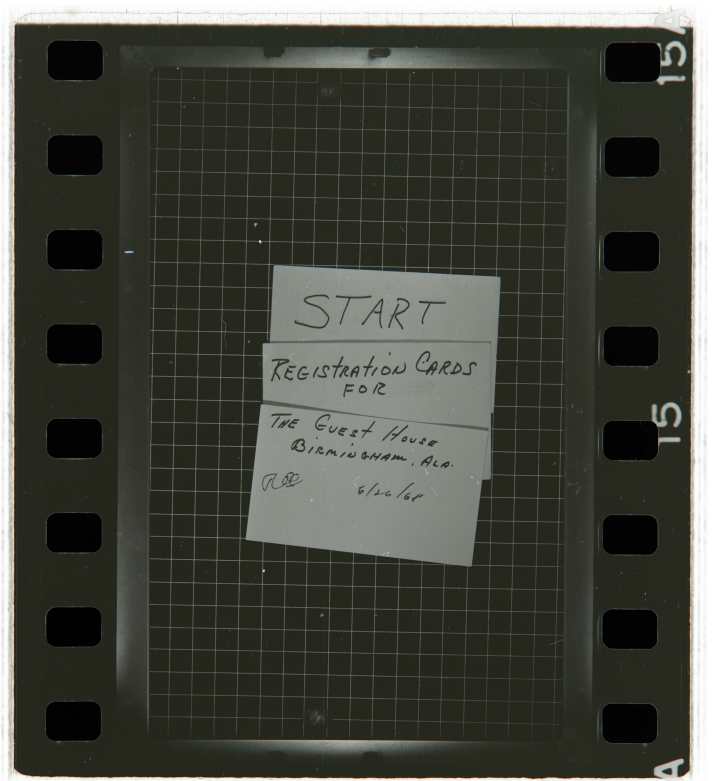

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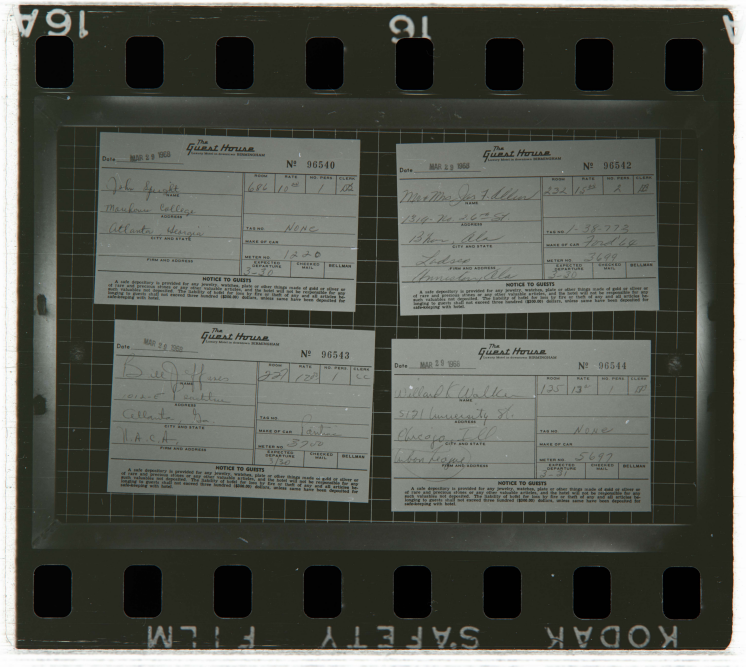

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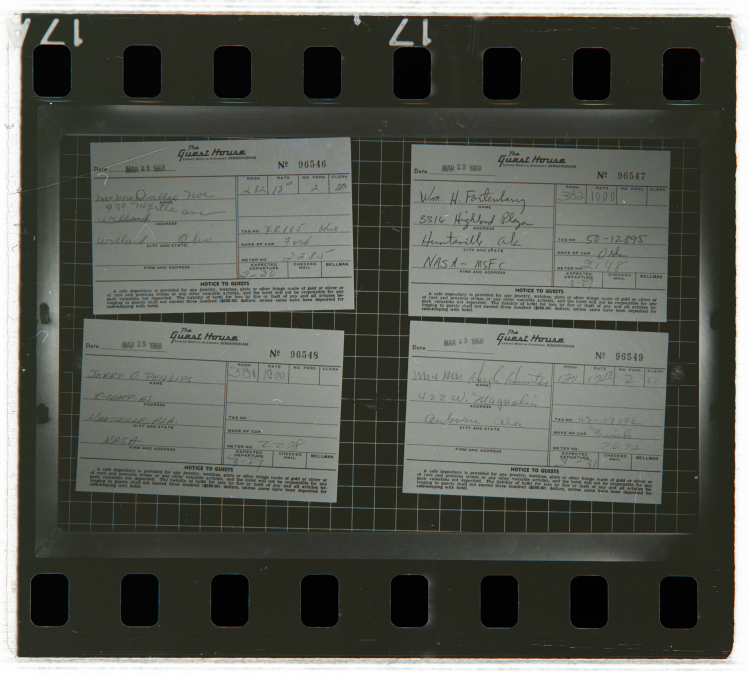

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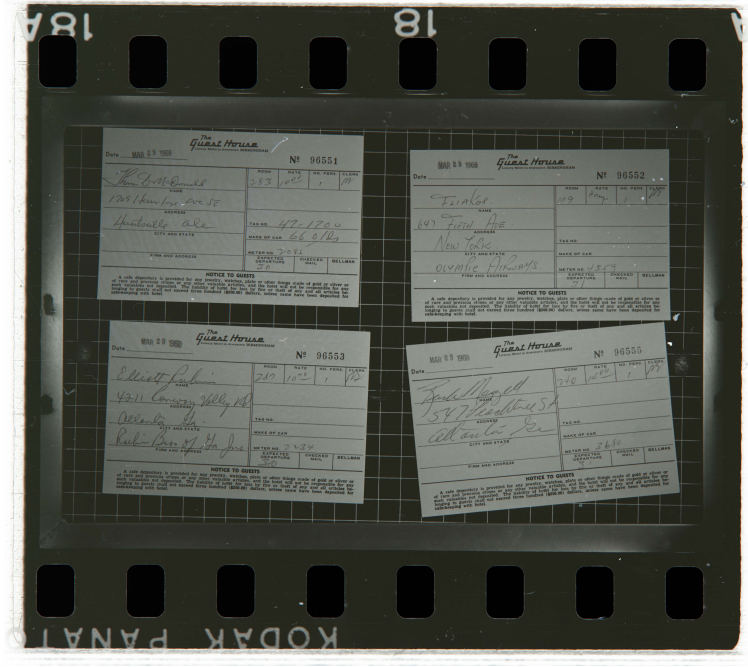

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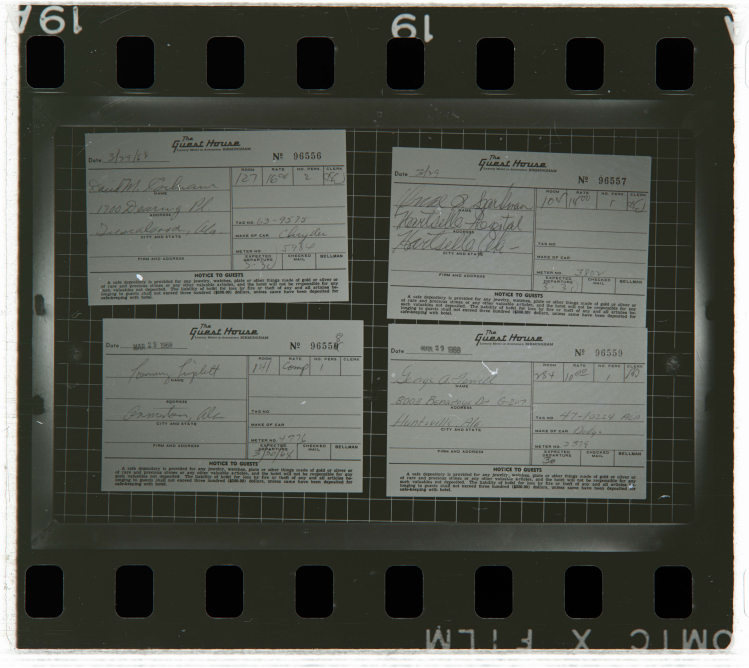

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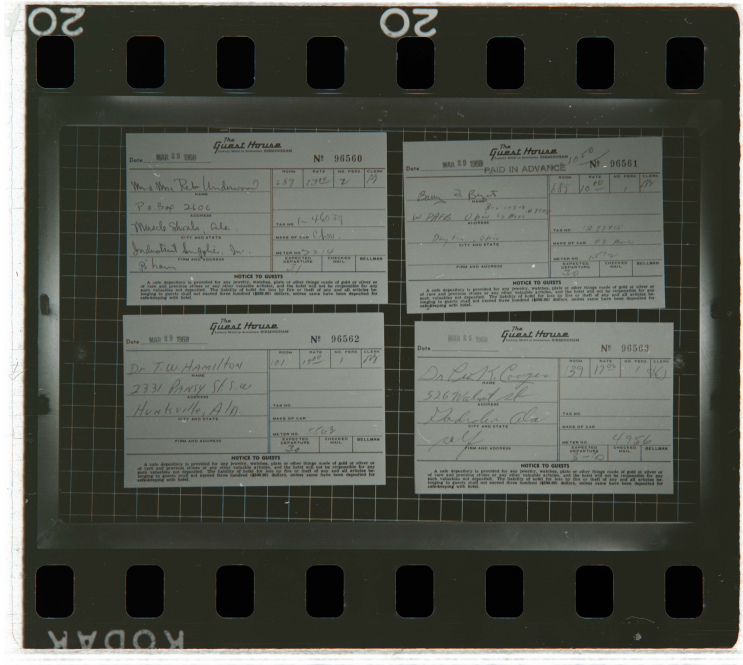

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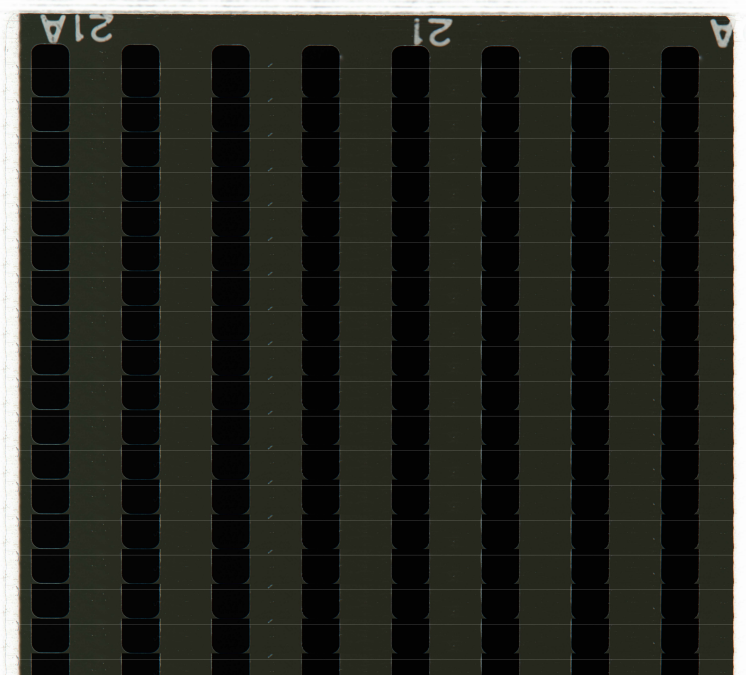

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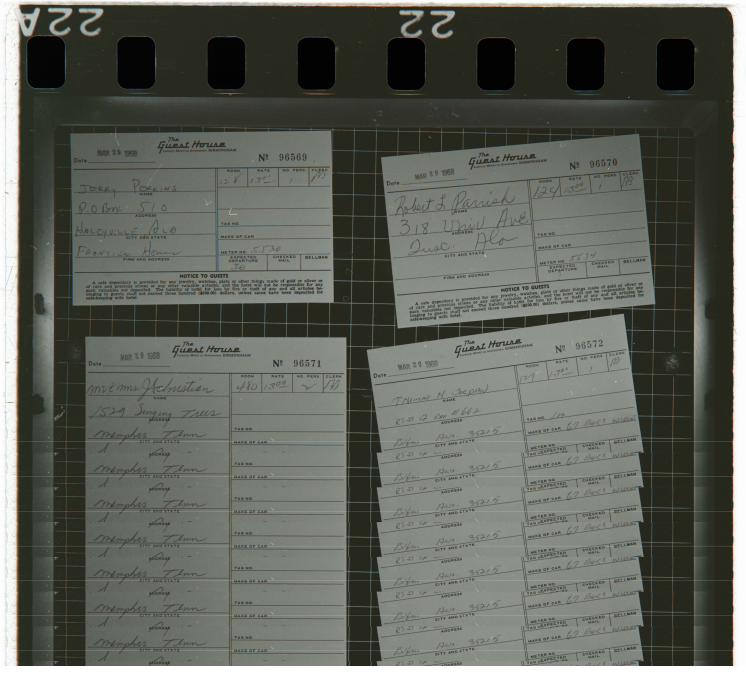

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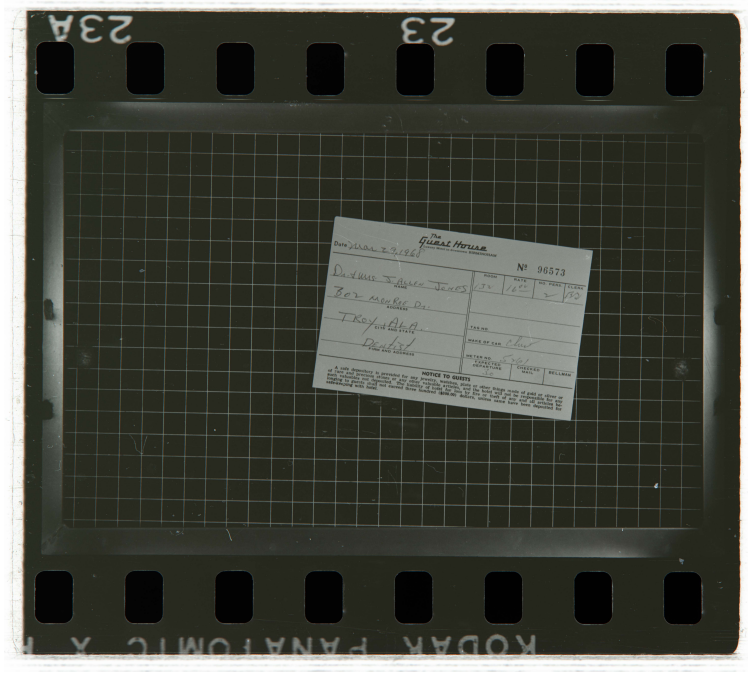

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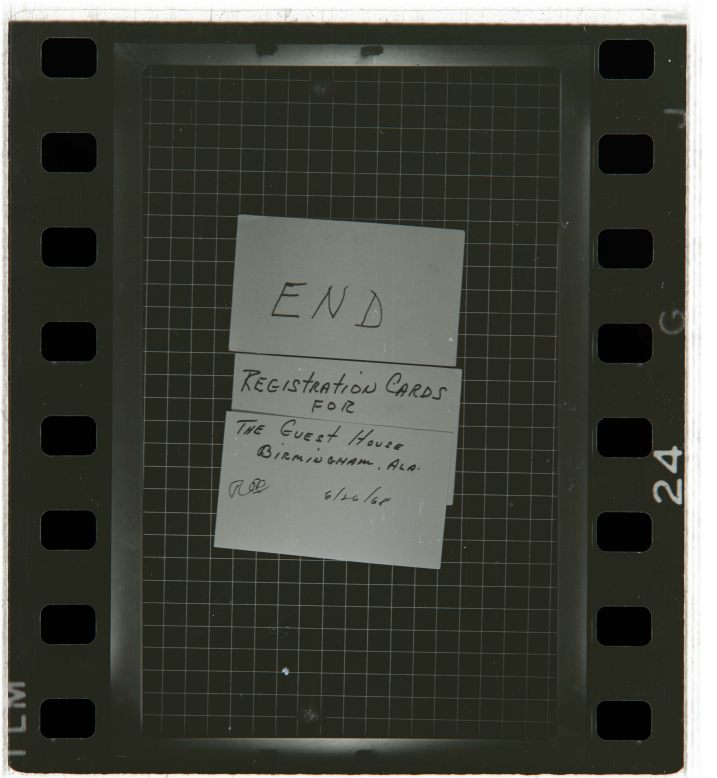

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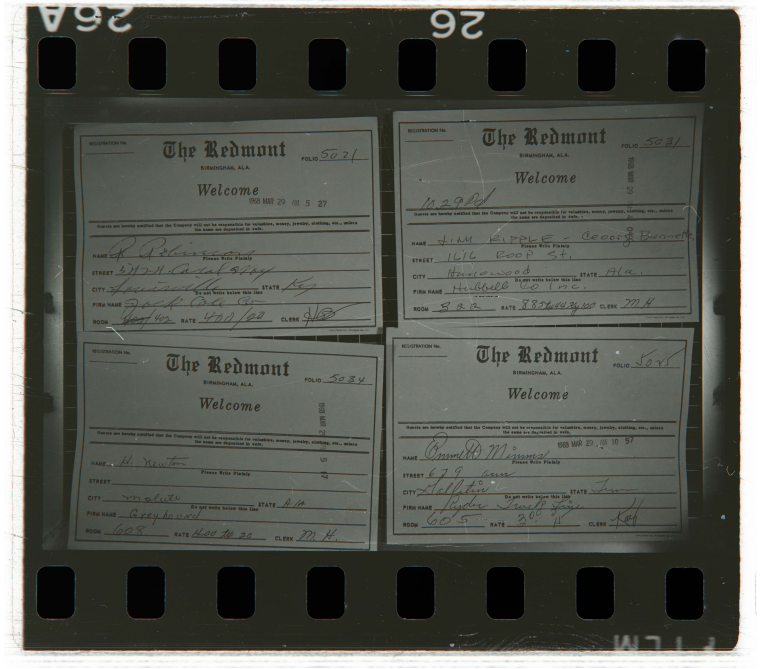

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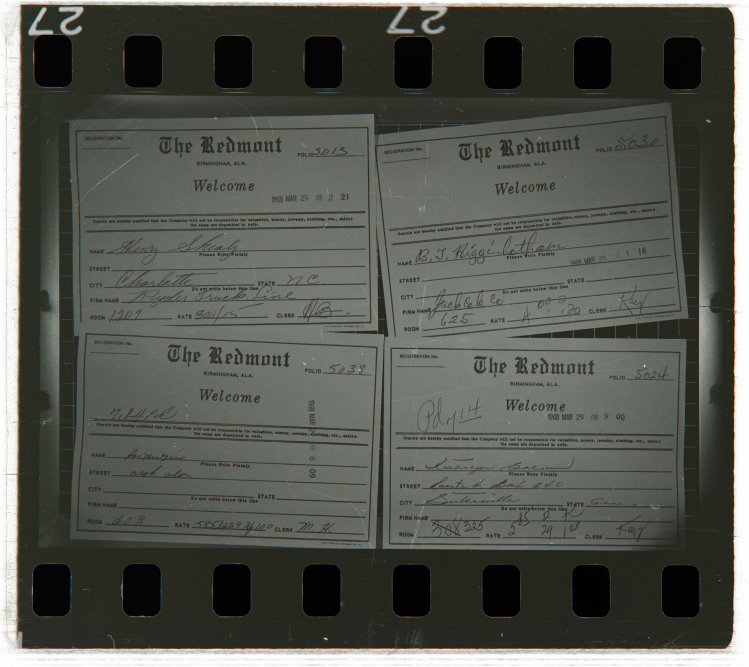

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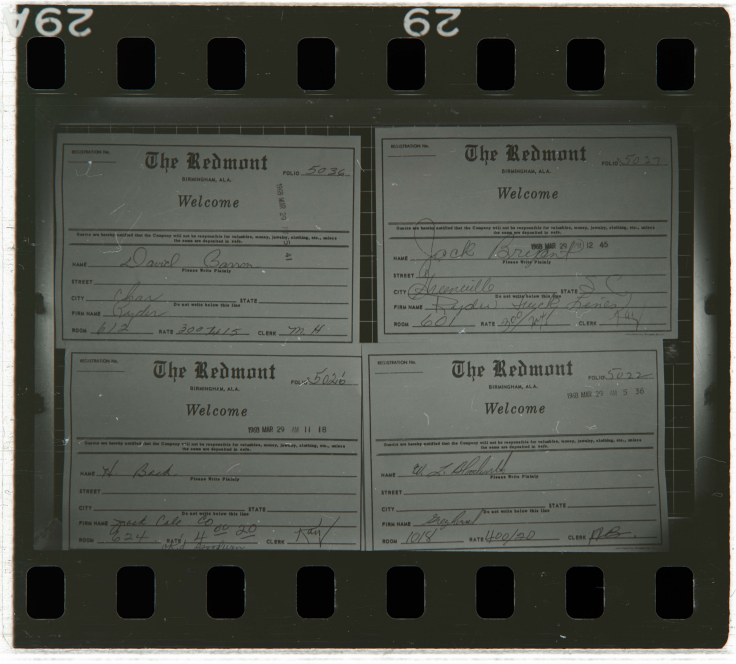

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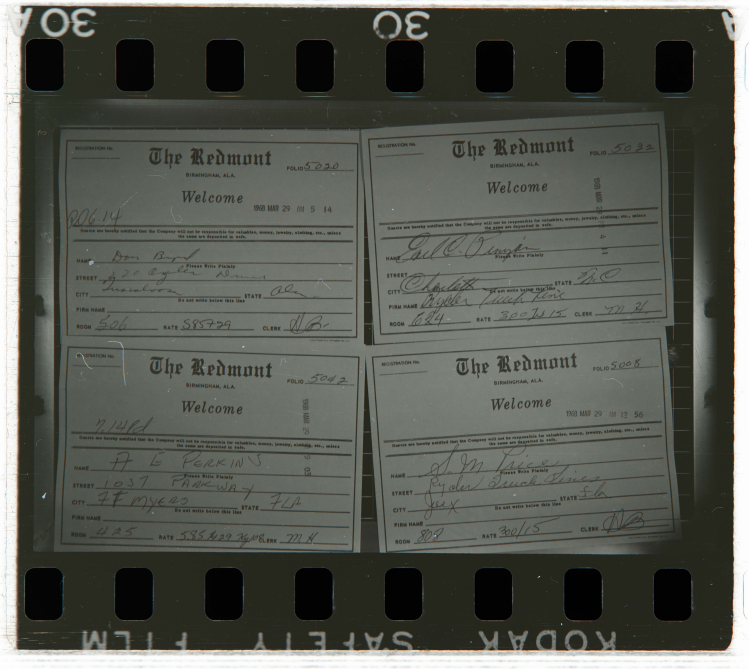

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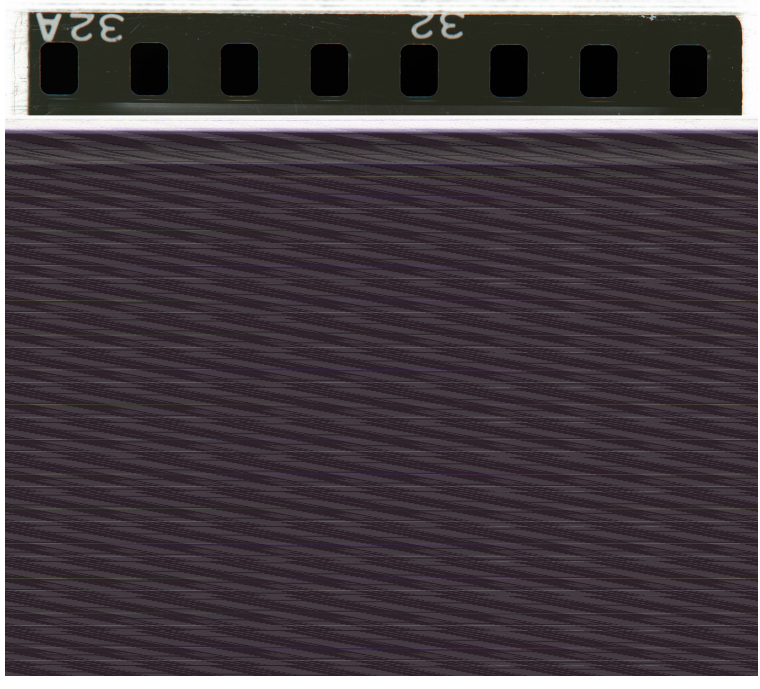

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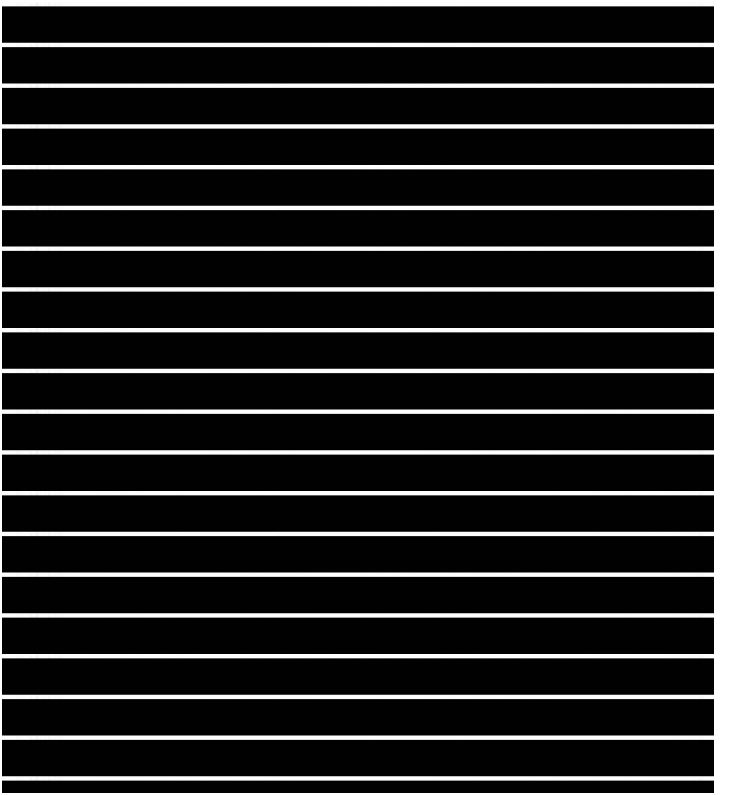

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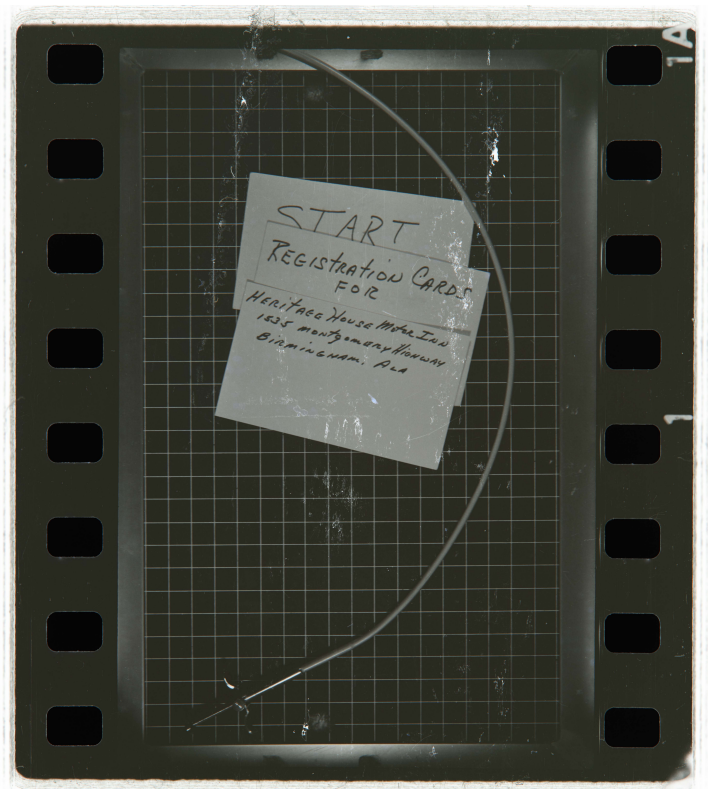

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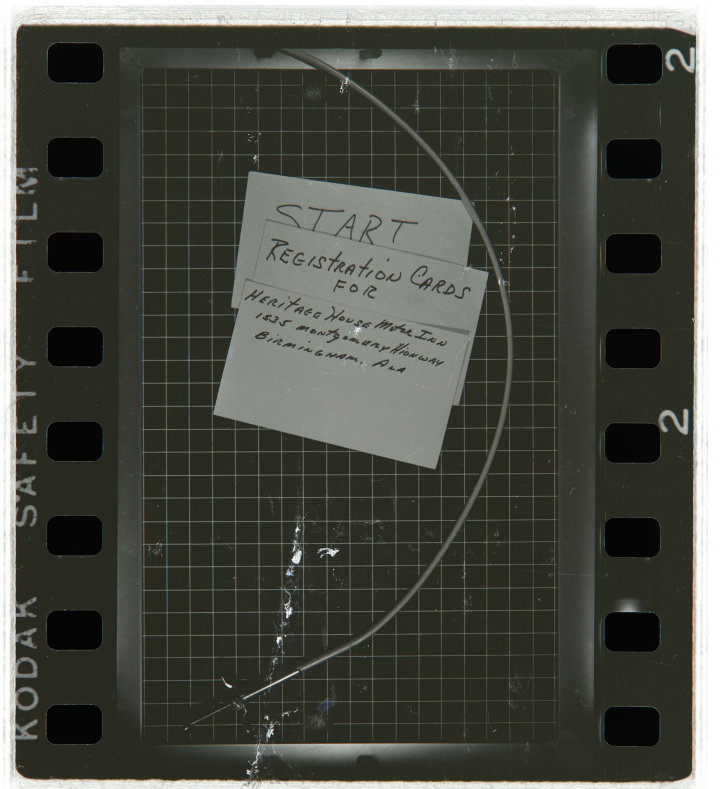

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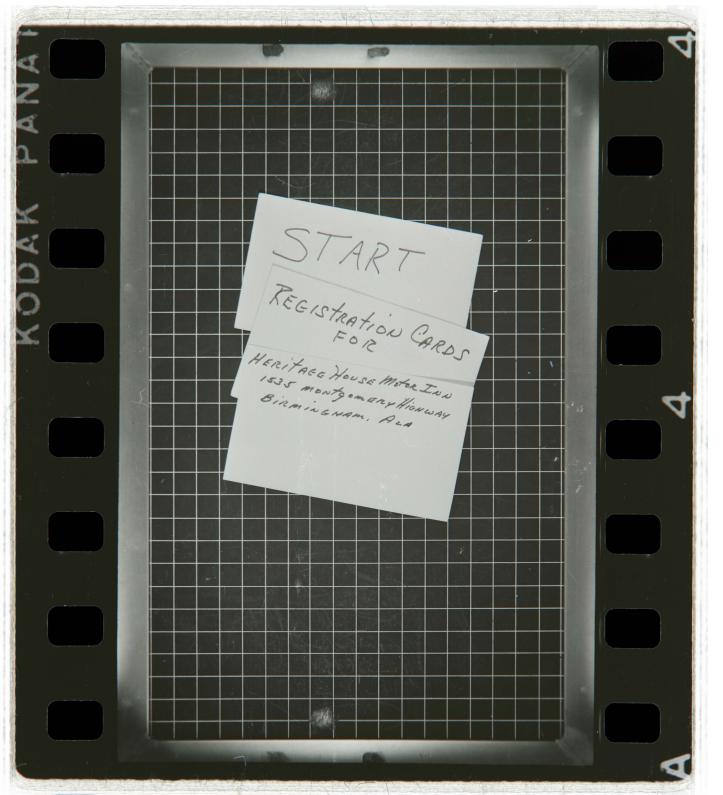

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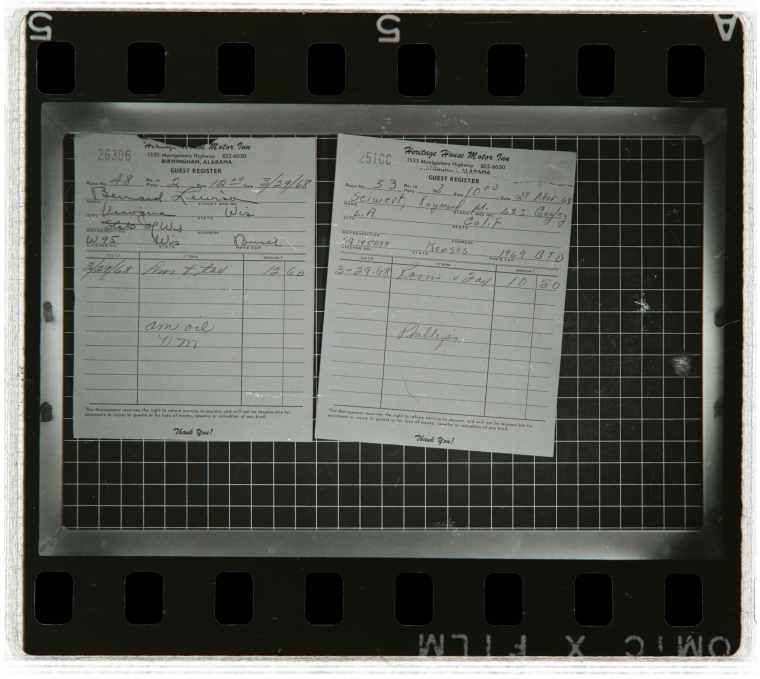

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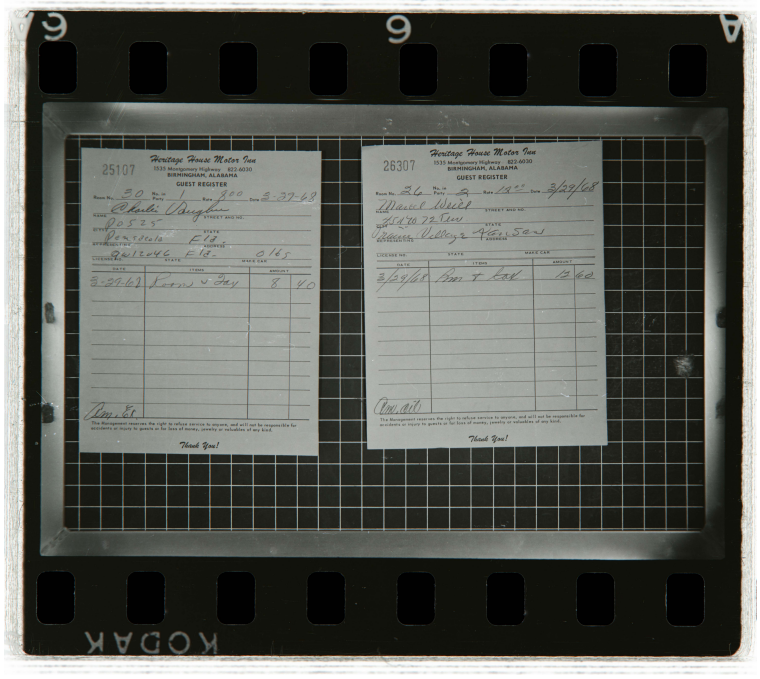

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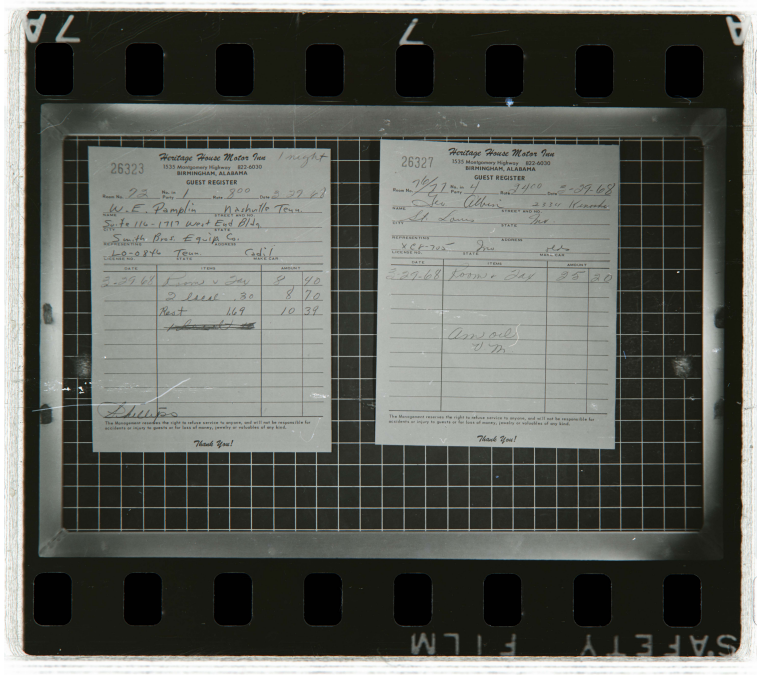

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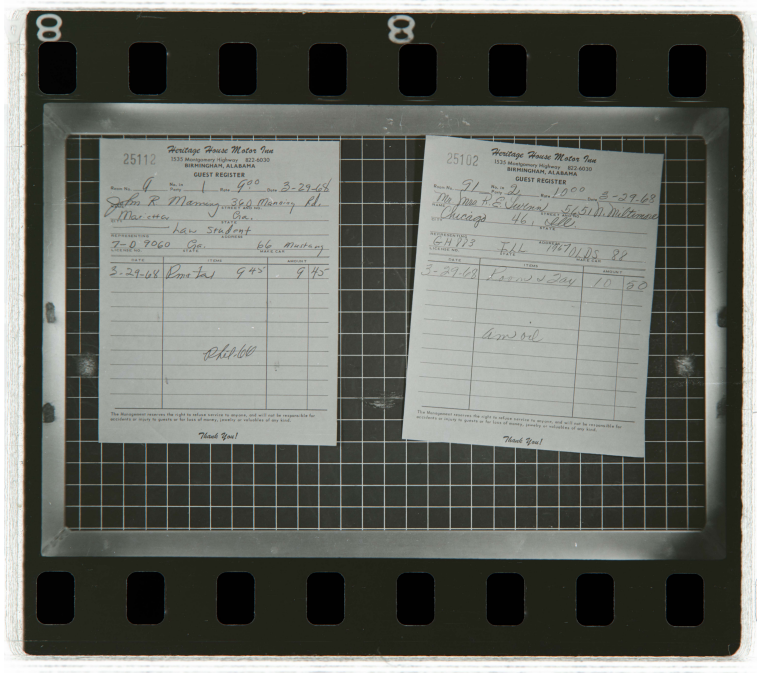

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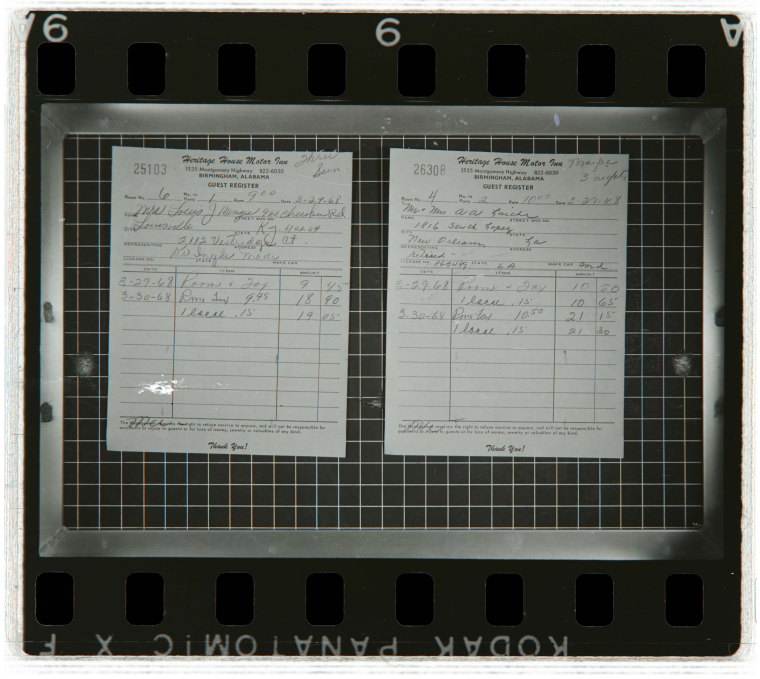

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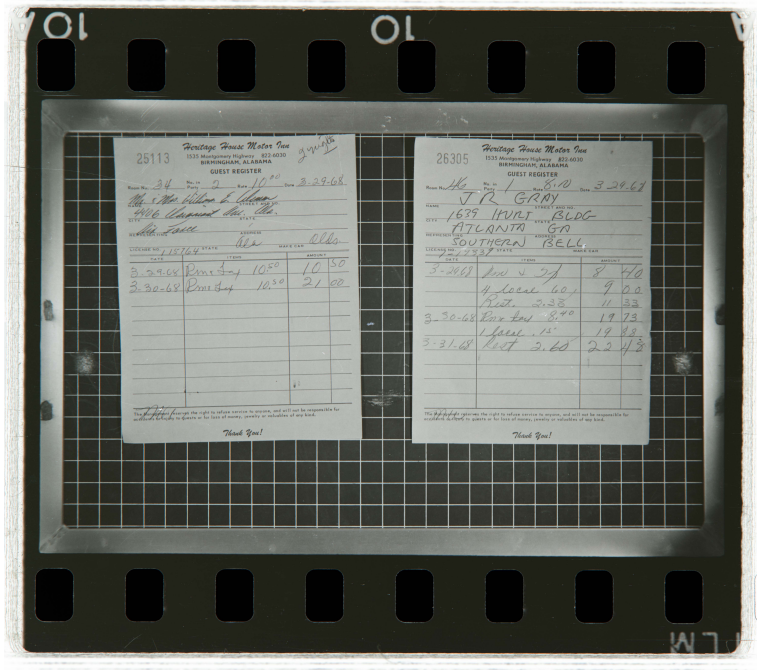

25113

Heritage House Motor Inn
1535 Montgomery Highway 822-6030
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
GUEST REGISTER

Room No. 34 No. in Party 2 Rate 10.00 Date 3-29-68

Mr. & Mrs. Wilson E. Wilson
4406 Clairmont Ave. Ala.
City State
Nearest Town Address
Ala
License No. 15764 State Ala Make Car Olds

DATE	ITEMS	AMOUNT
3-29-68	Rm & Tax 10.50	10 50
3-30-68	Rm & Tax 10.50	21 00

The Heritage reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents delivery to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.

Thank You!

26305

Heritage House Motor Inn
1535 Montgomery Highway 822-6030
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
GUEST REGISTER

Room No. 46 No. in Party 1 Rate 8.10 Date 3-29-68

J R GRAY
Name Street and No.
1639 HURT BLDG
City State
ATLANTA GA
Nearest Town Address
SOUTHERN BELL
License No. 21783 State Make Car

DATE	ITEMS	AMOUNT
3-29-68	Rm & Tax	8 40
	4 local 60	9 00
	Rest. 2.38	11 33
3-30-68	Rm & Tax 8.40	19 73
	1 local .15	19 88
3-31-68	Rest 2.60	22 48

The Heritage reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents delivery to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.

Thank You!

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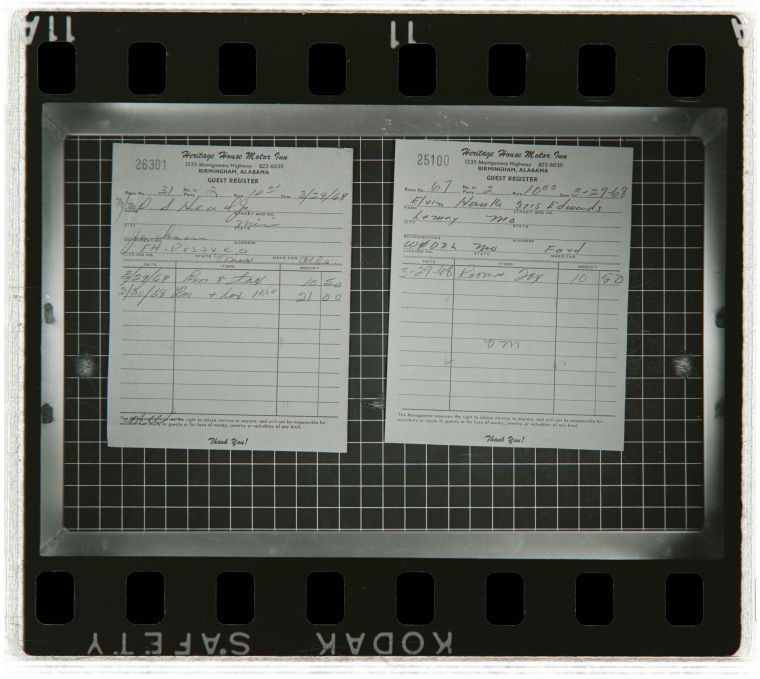

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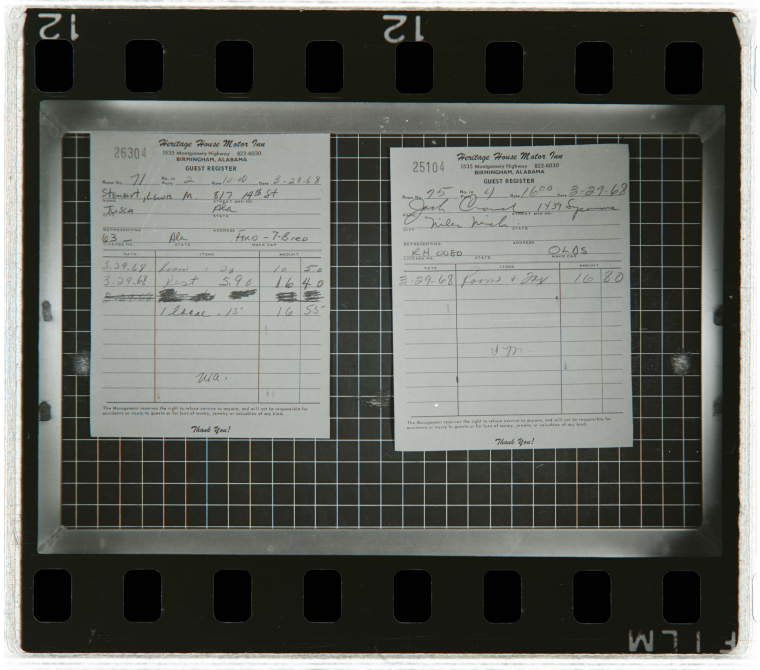

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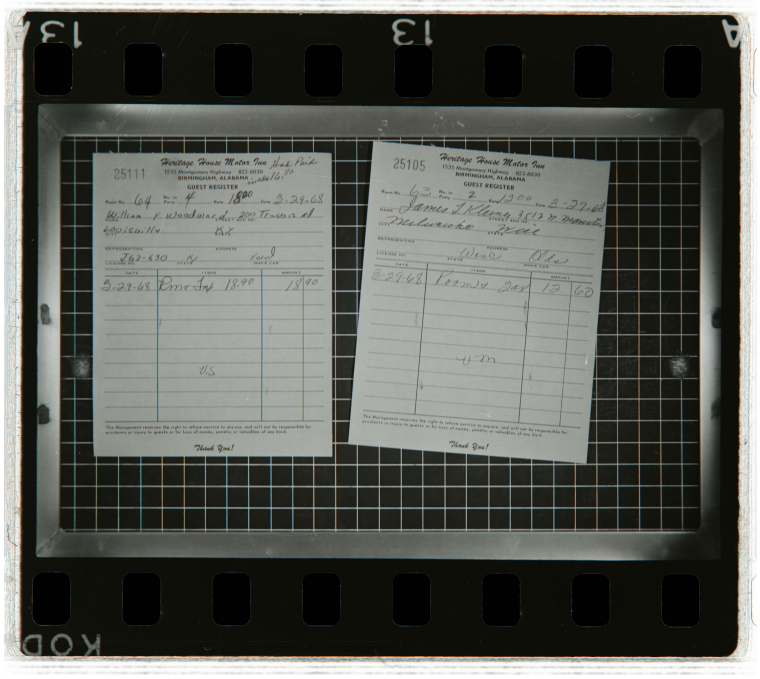

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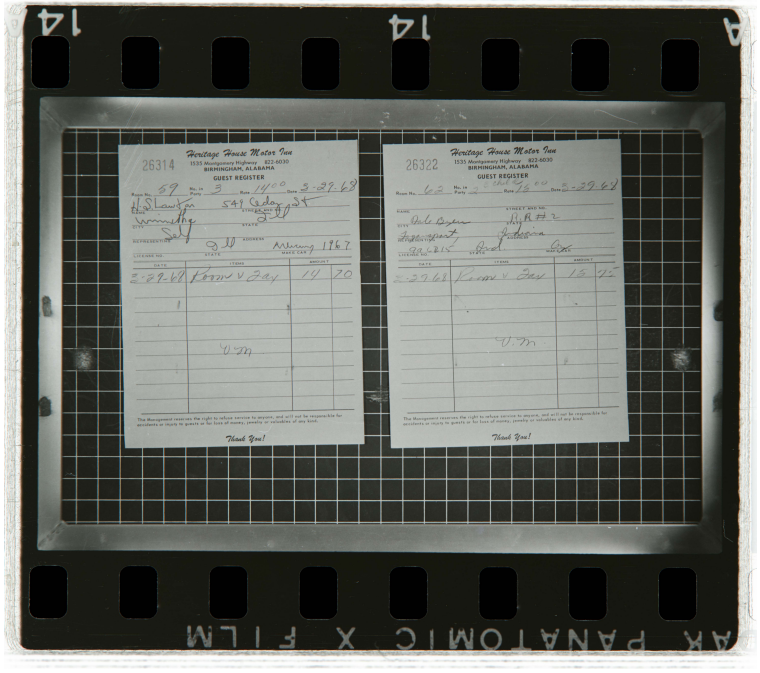

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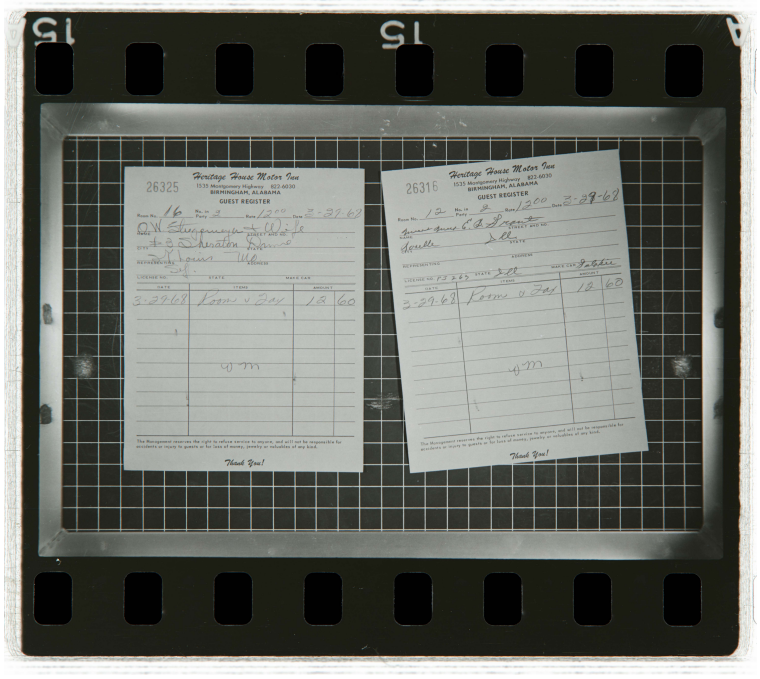

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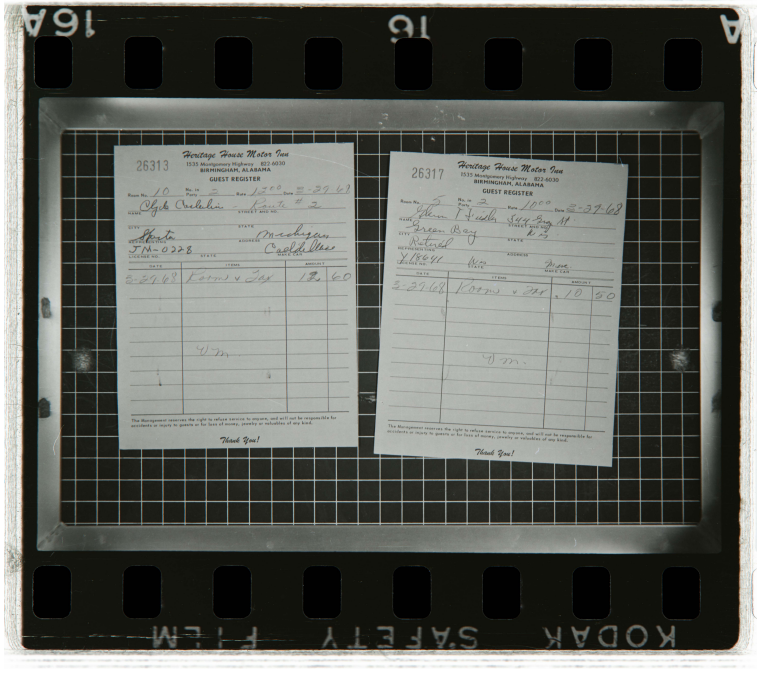

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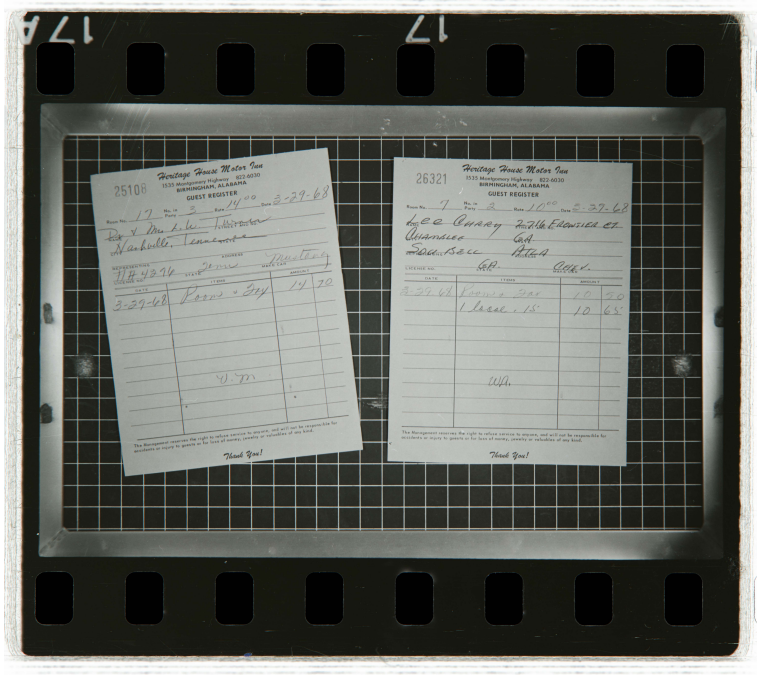

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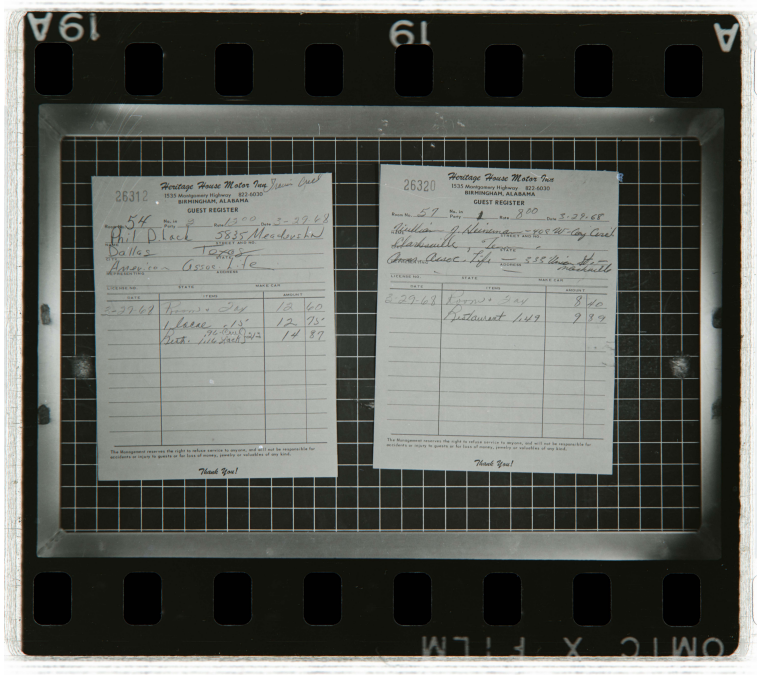

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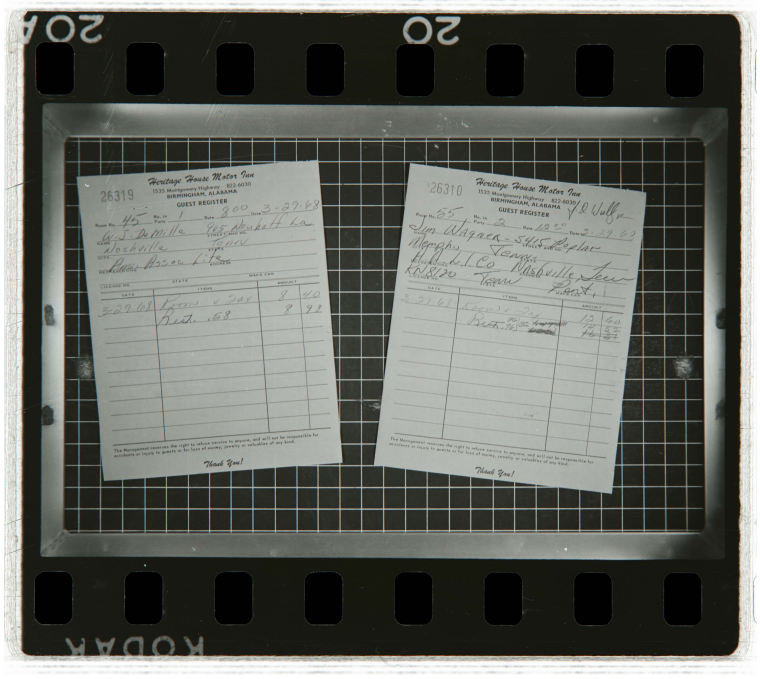

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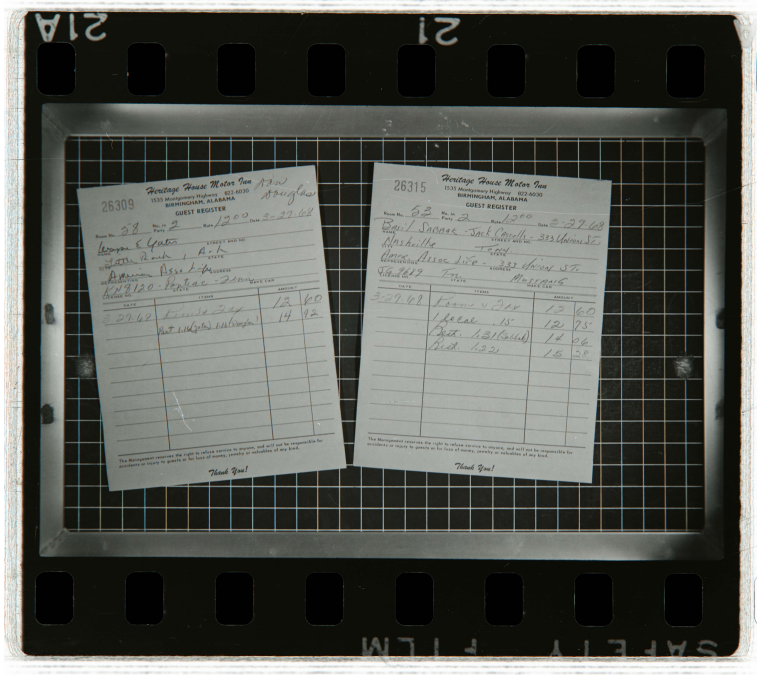

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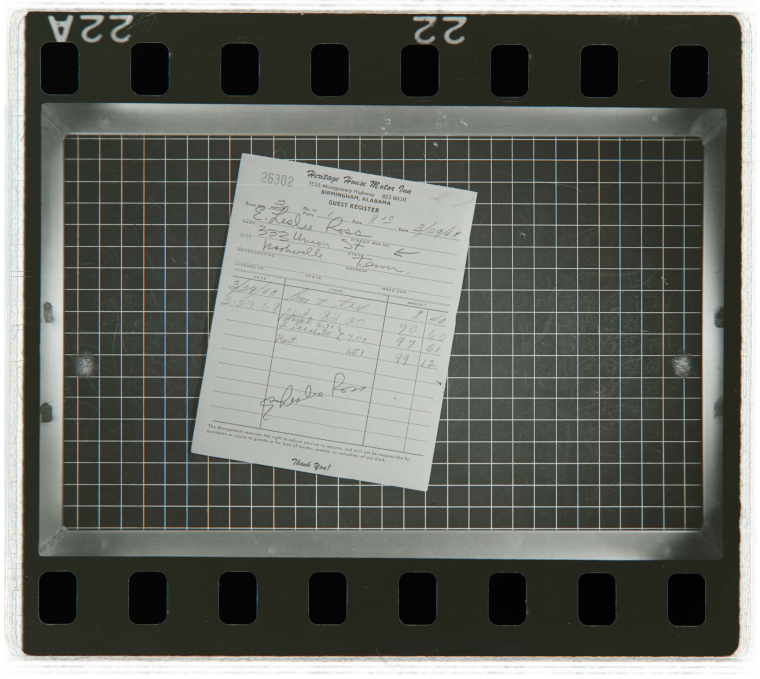

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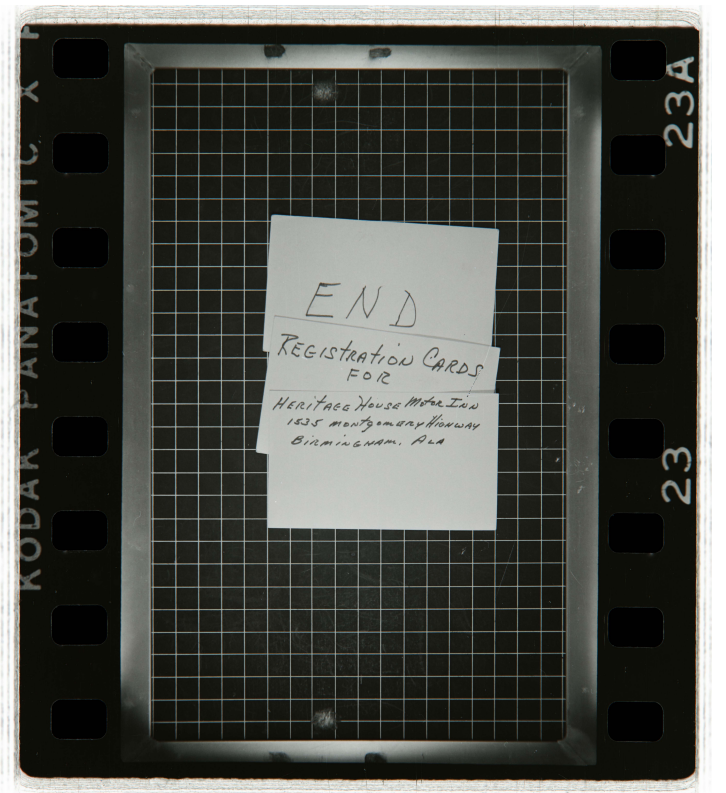

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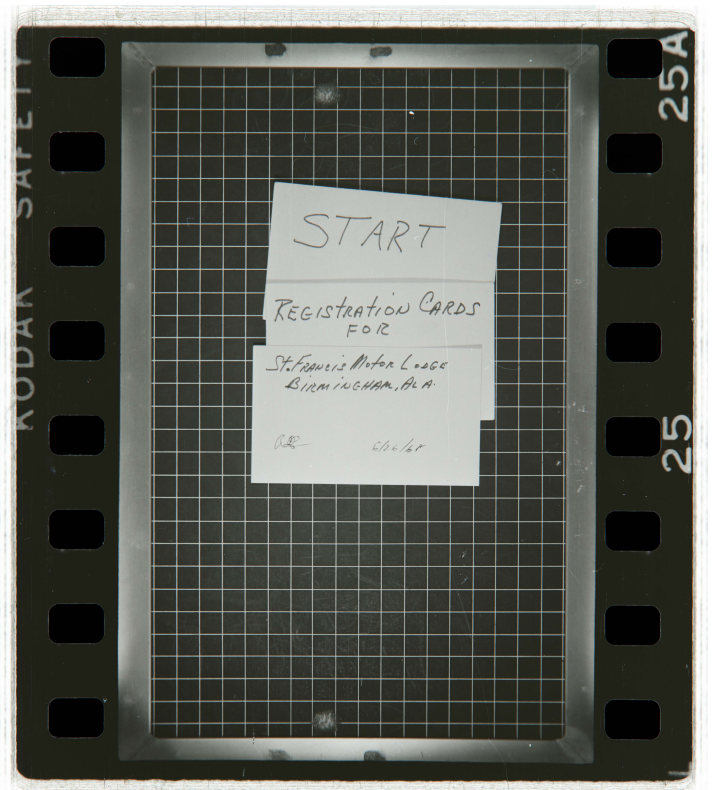

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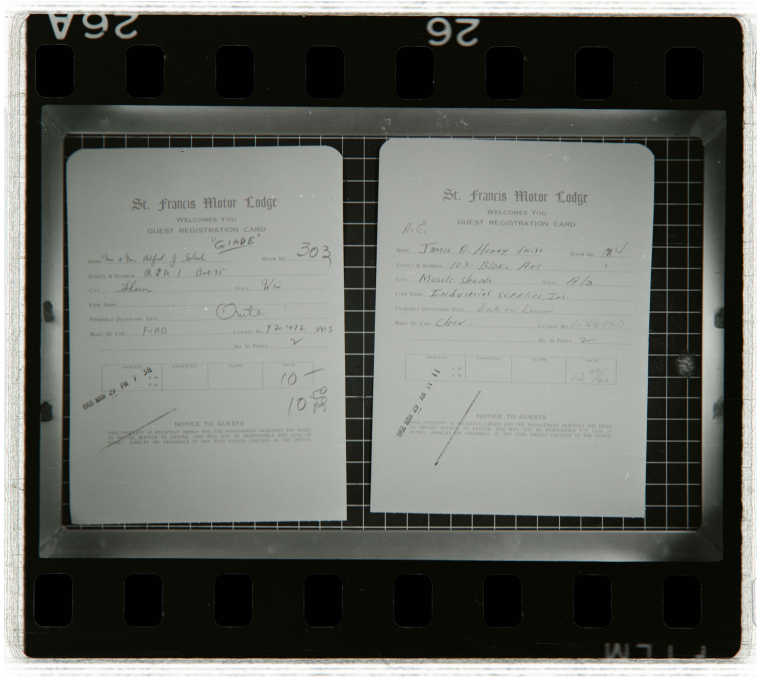

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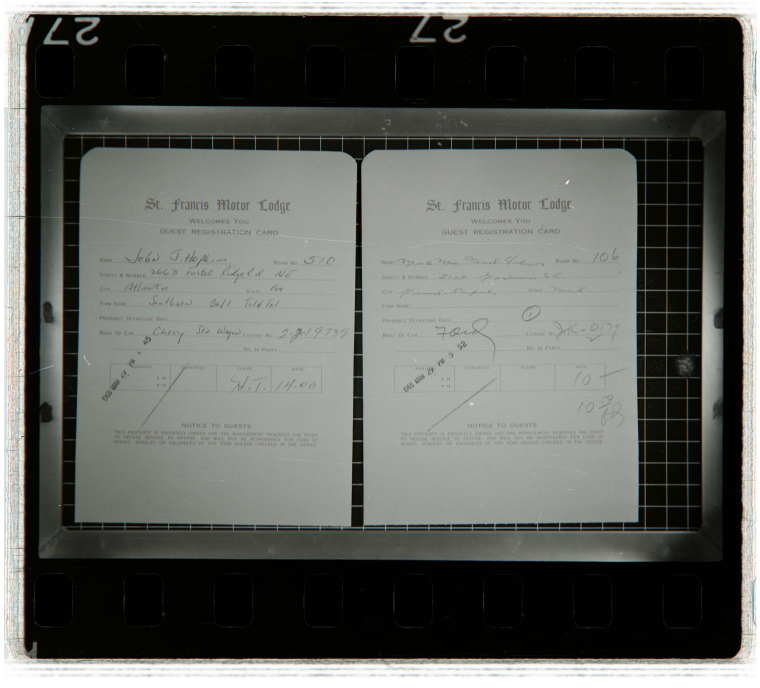

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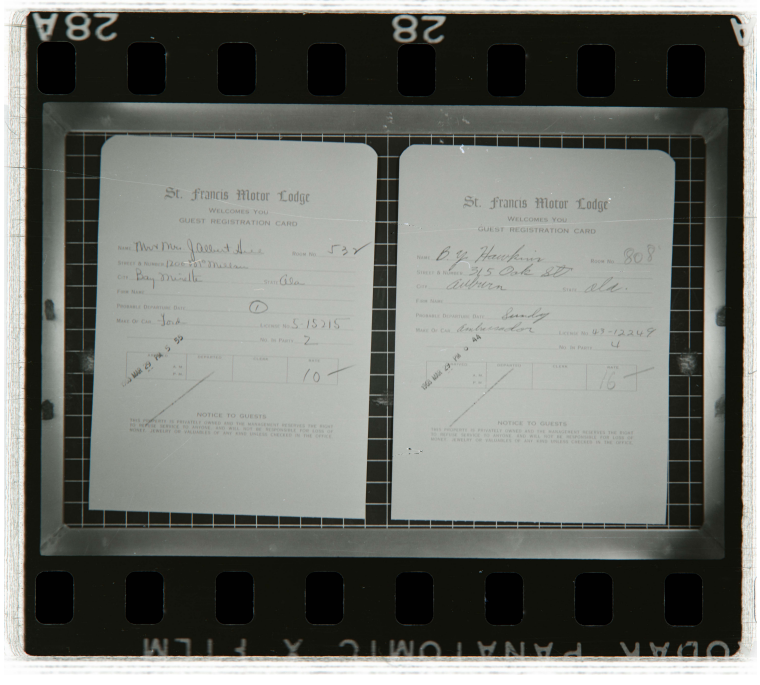

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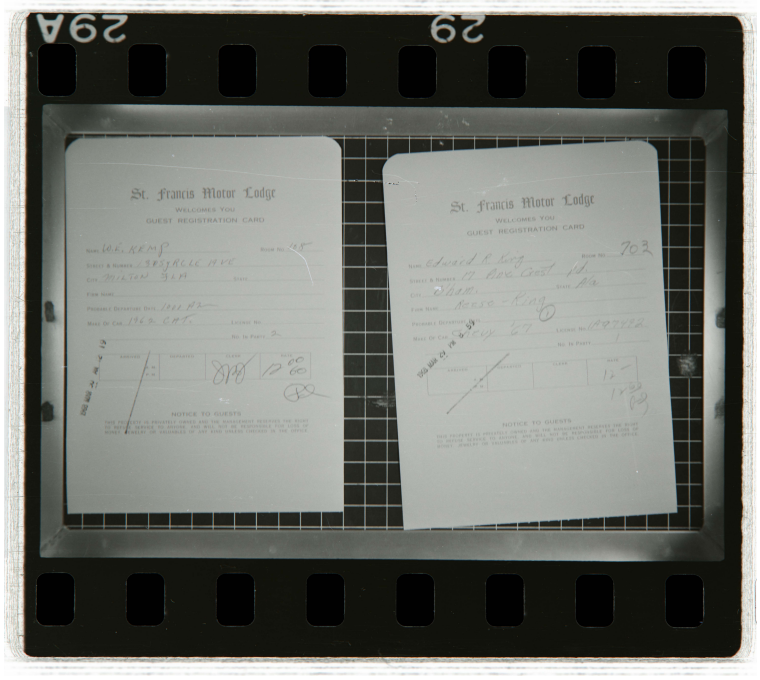

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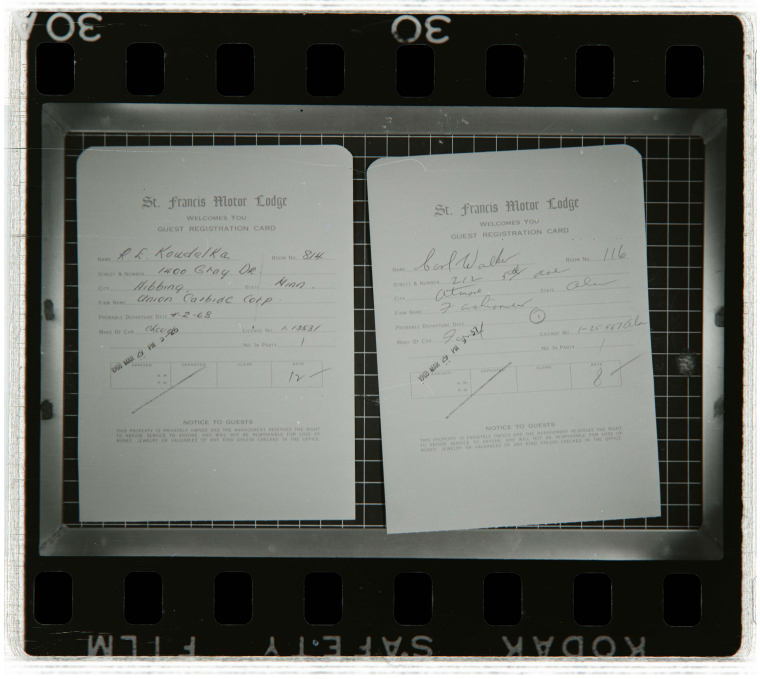

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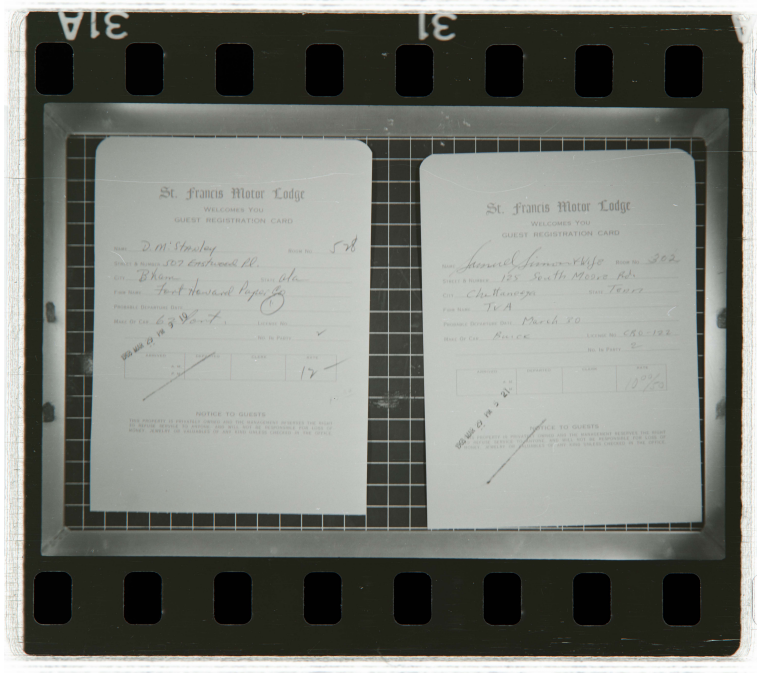

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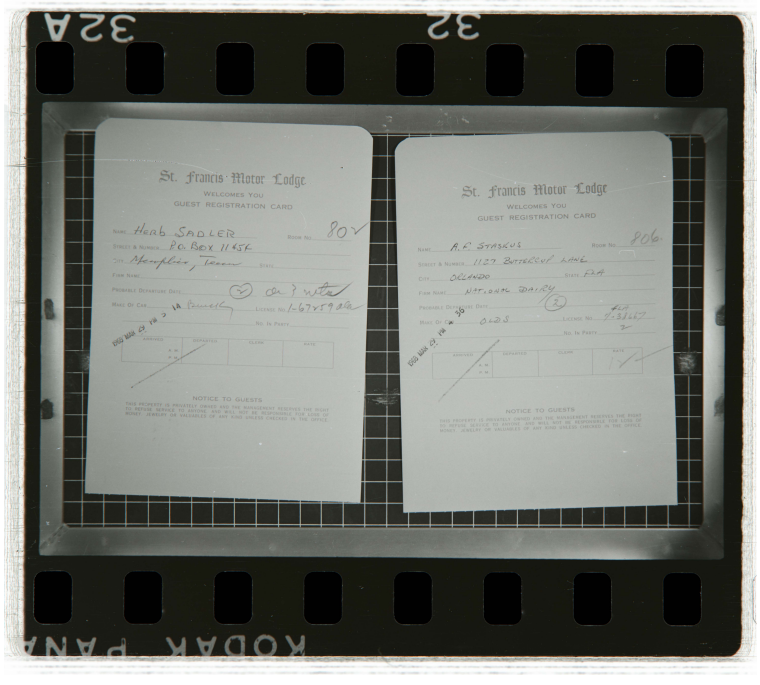

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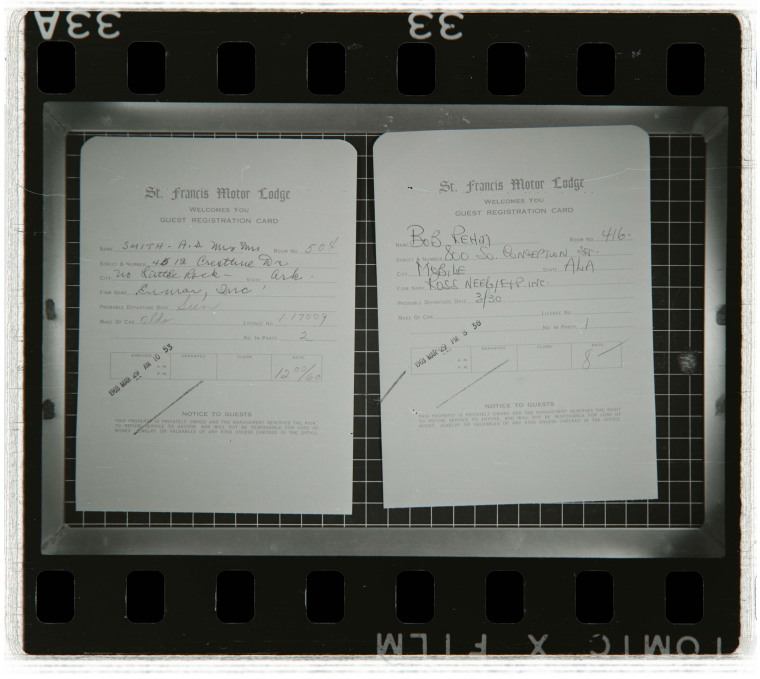

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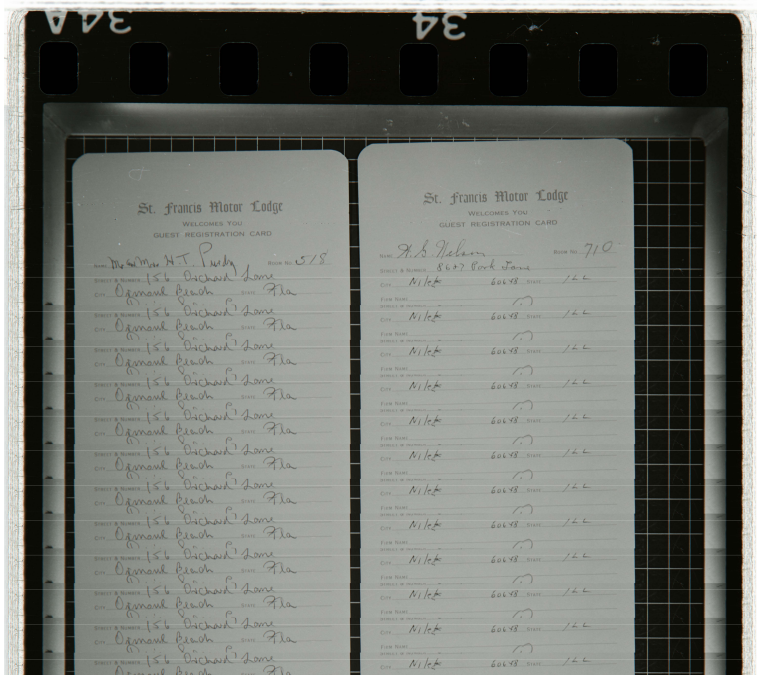

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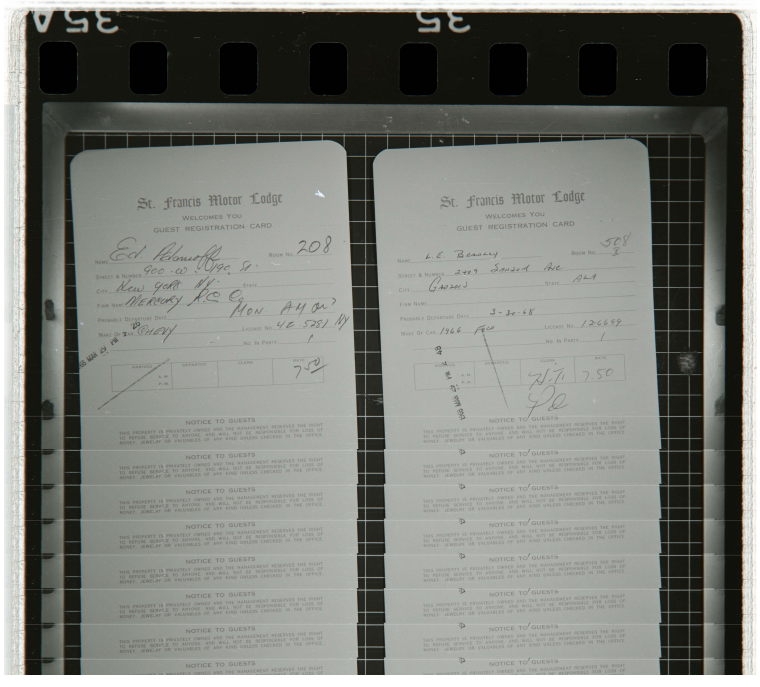

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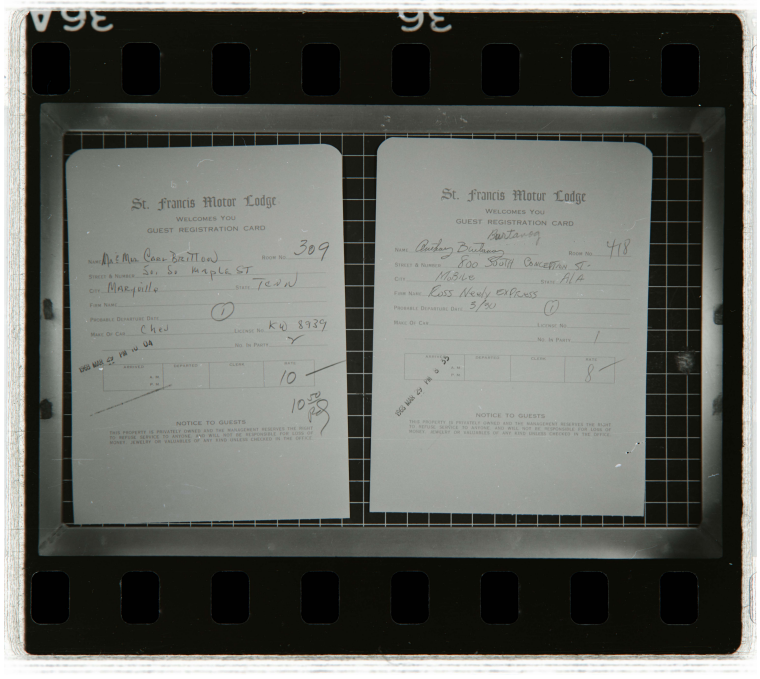

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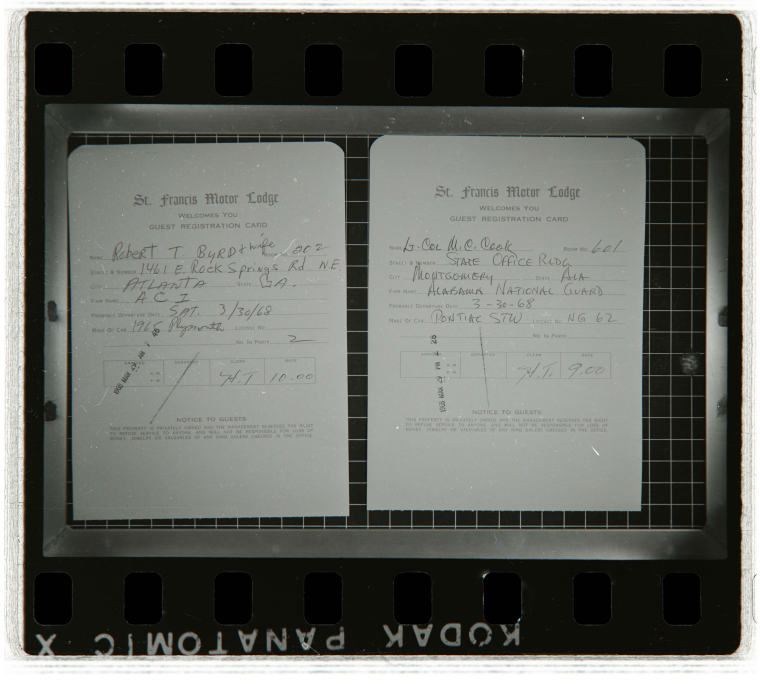

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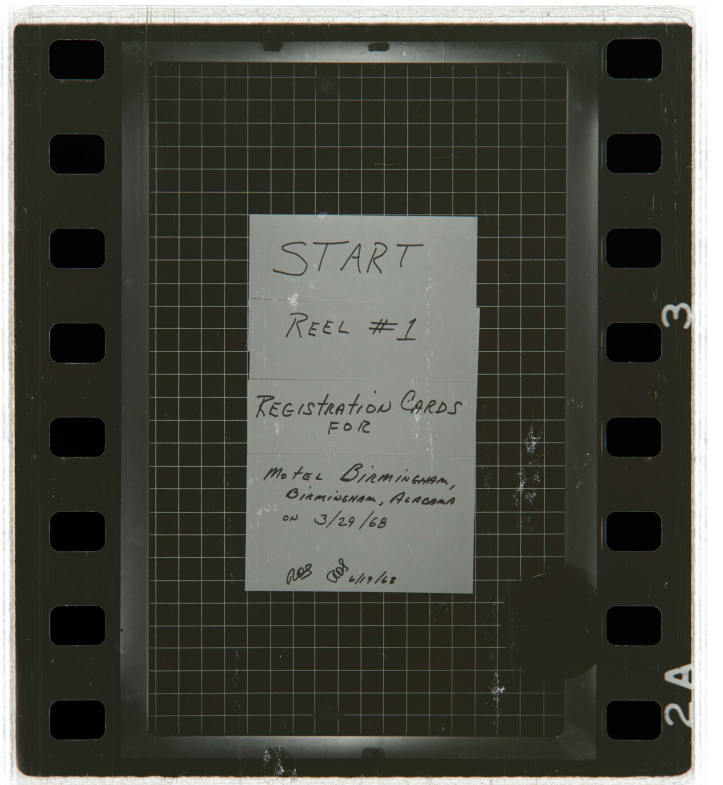

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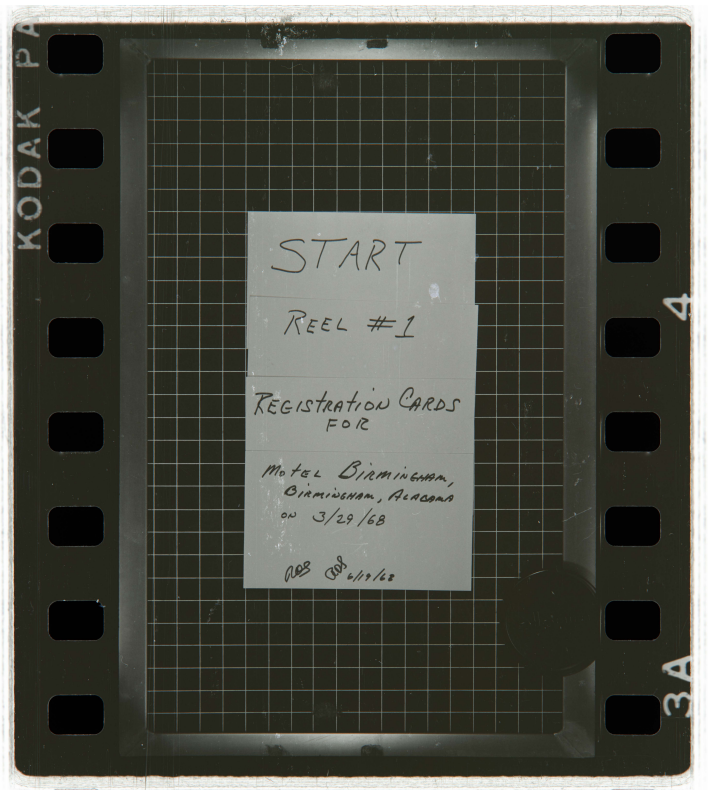

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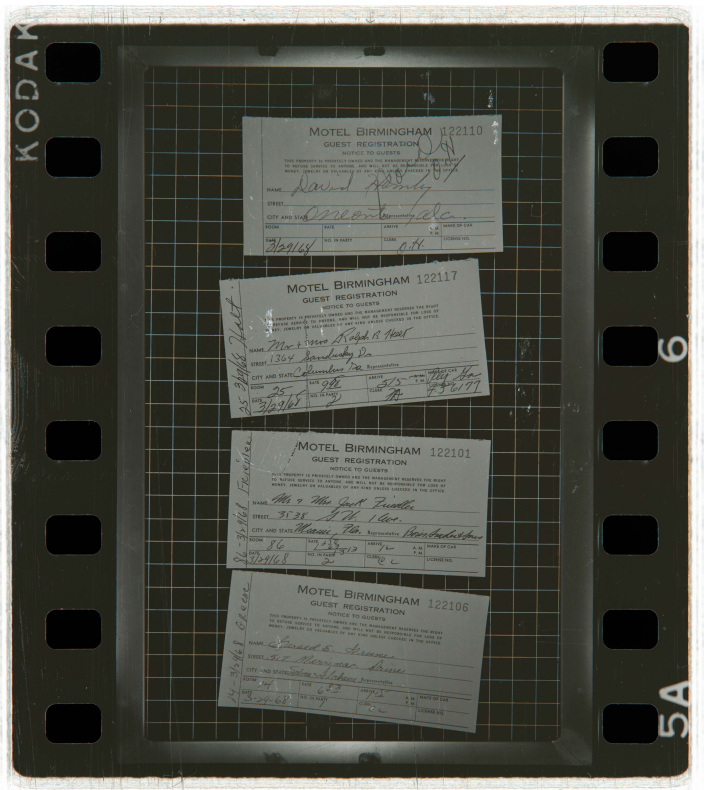

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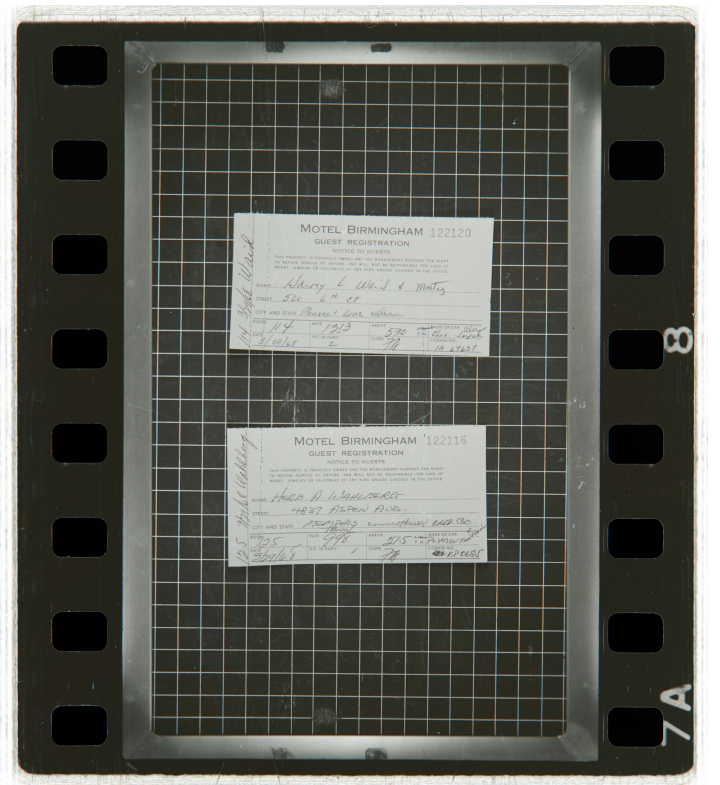

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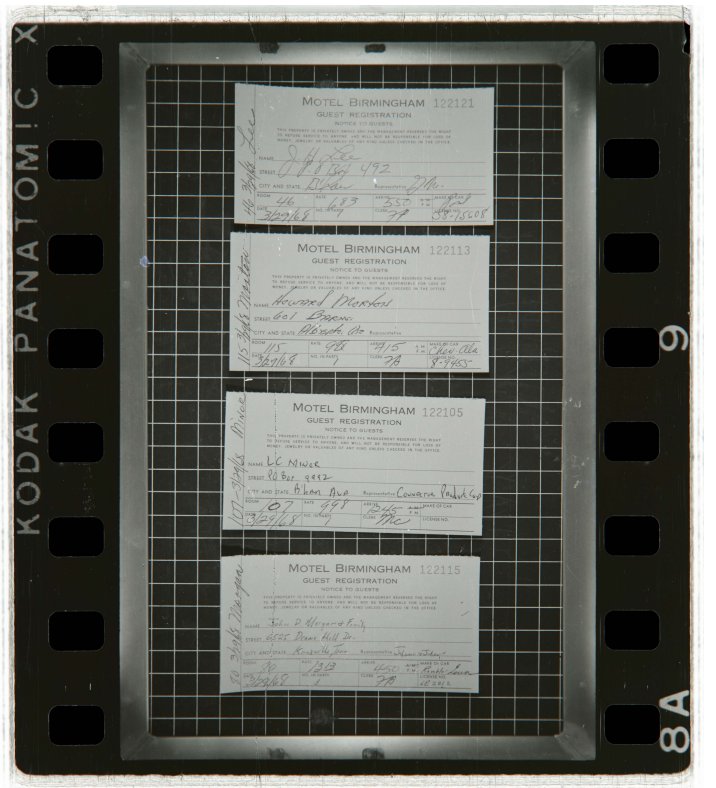

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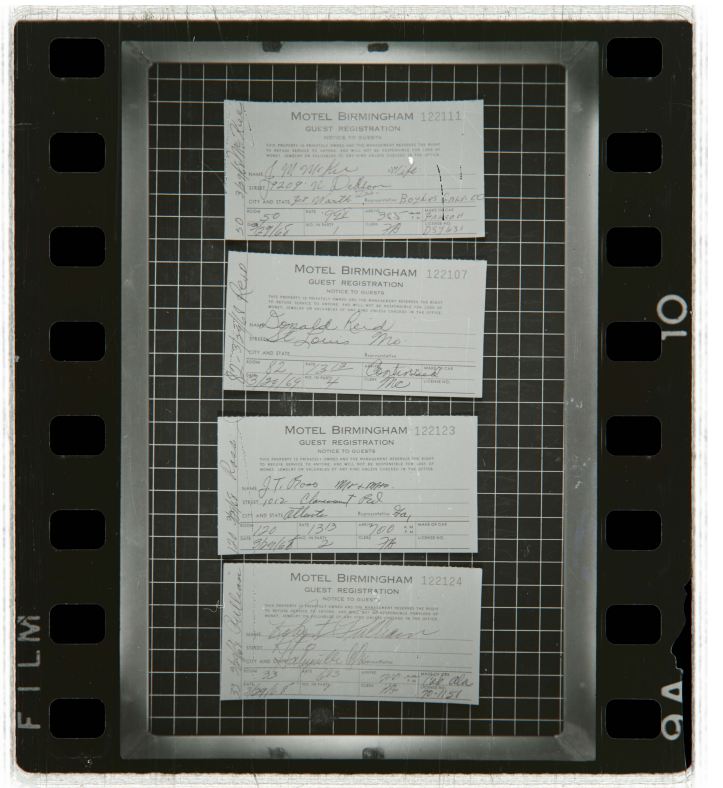

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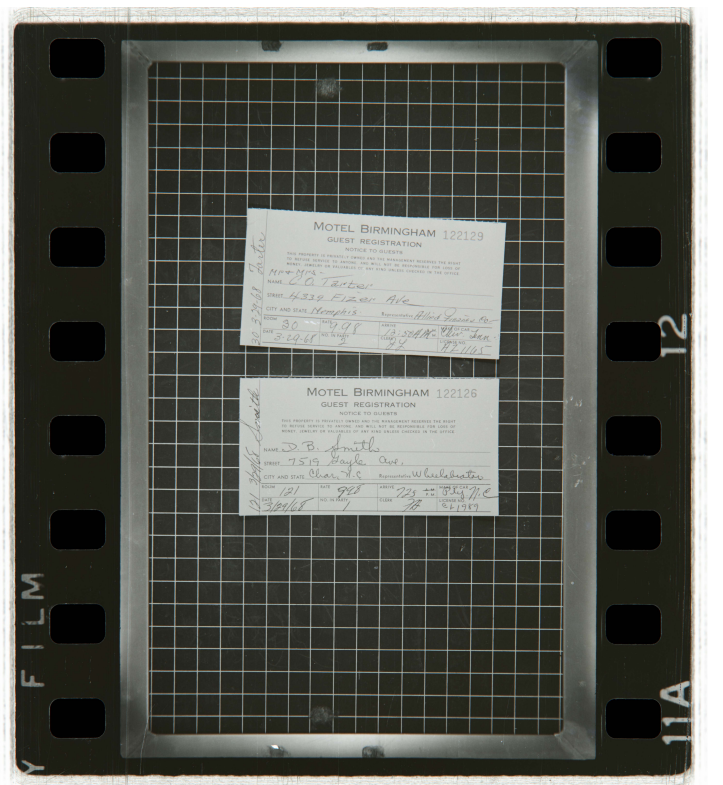

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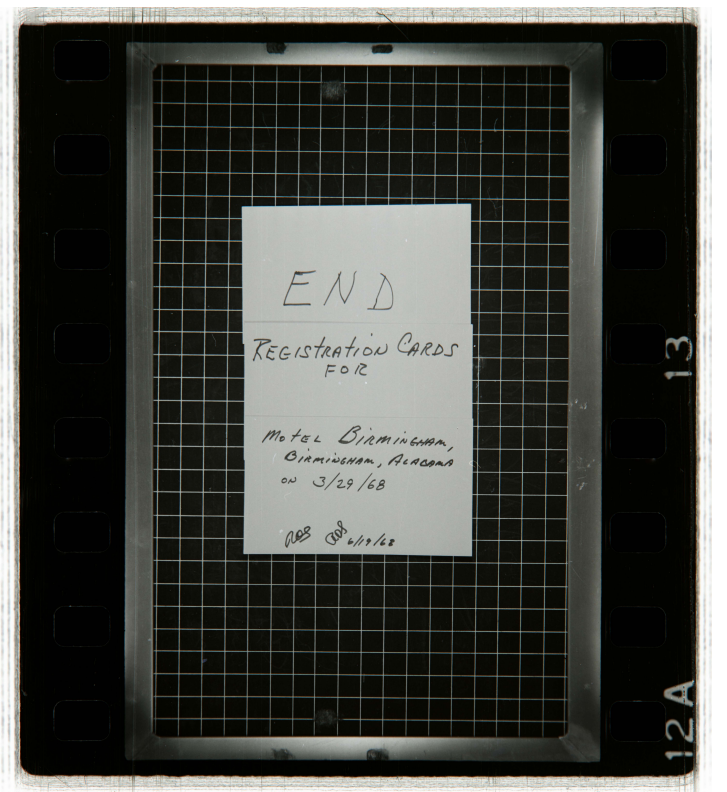

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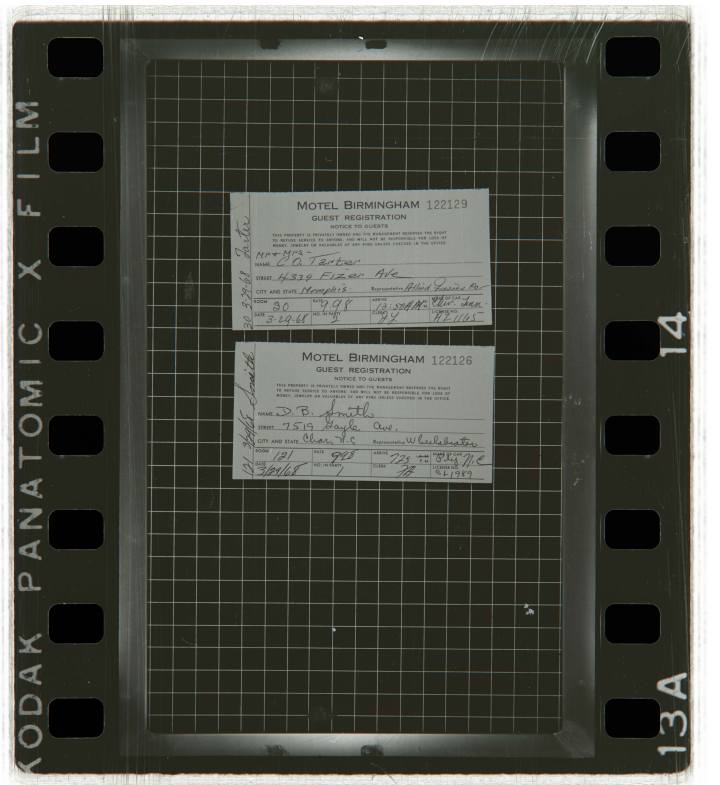

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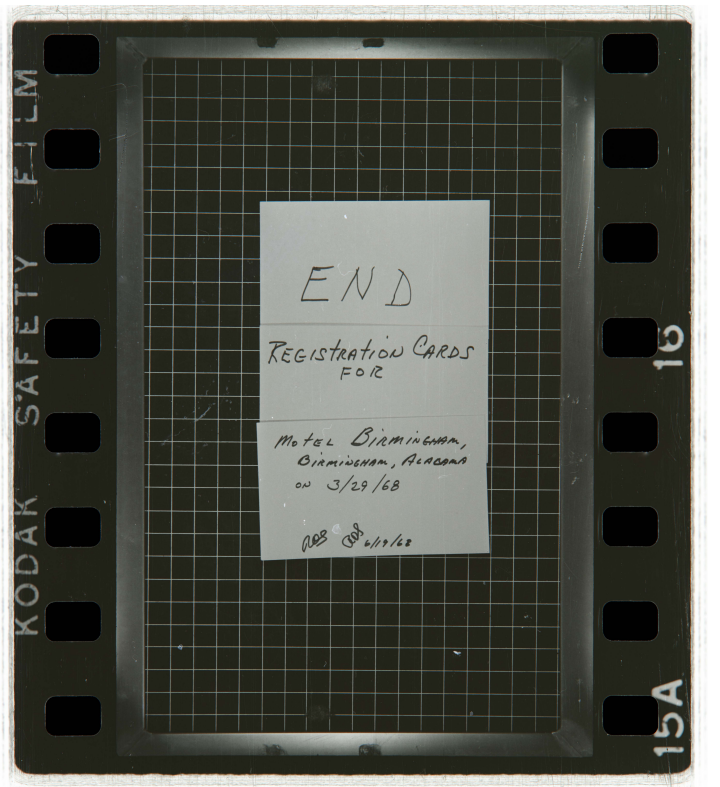

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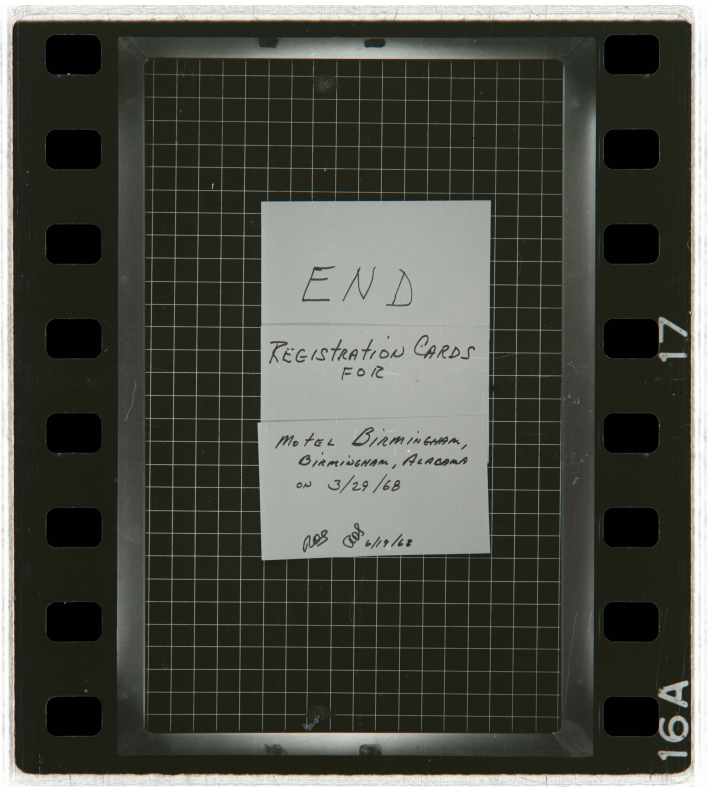

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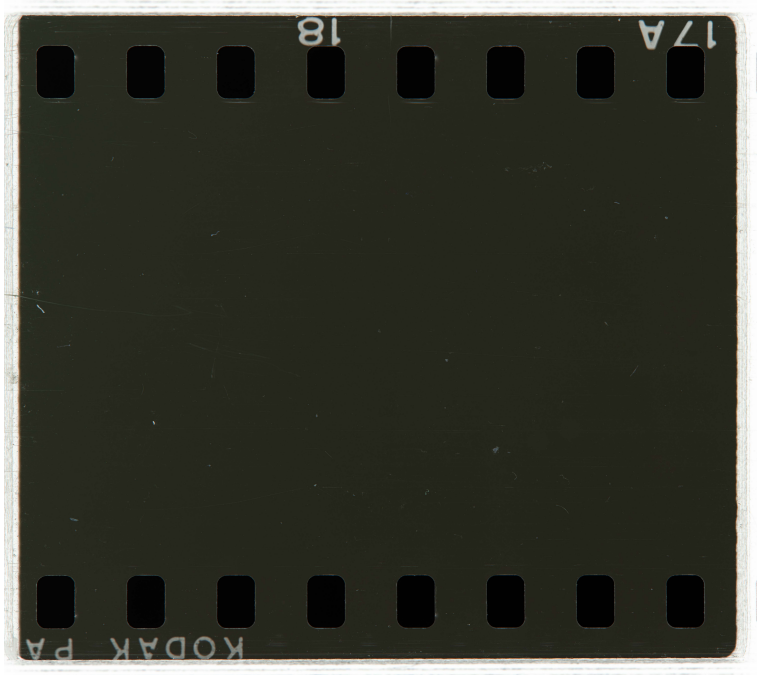

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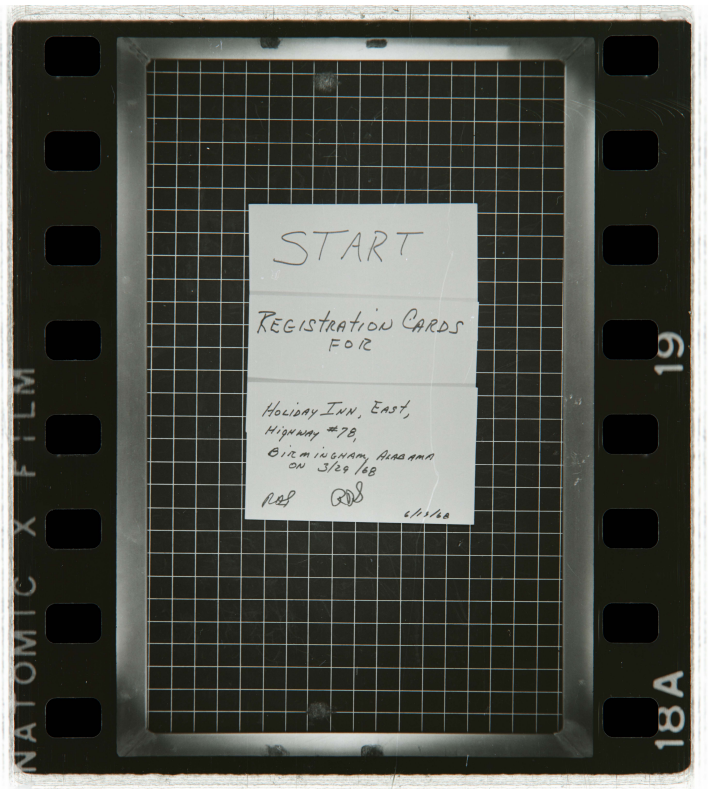

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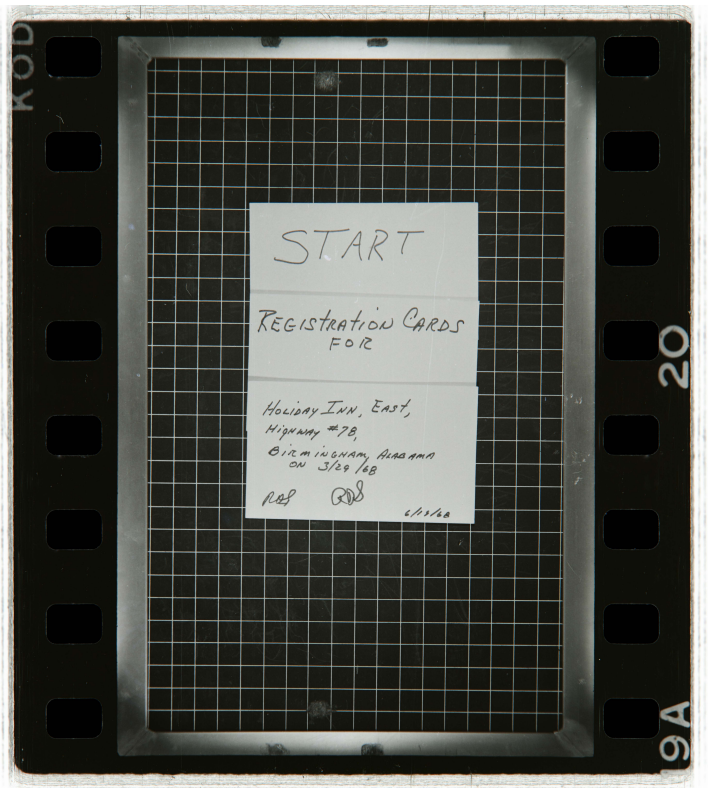

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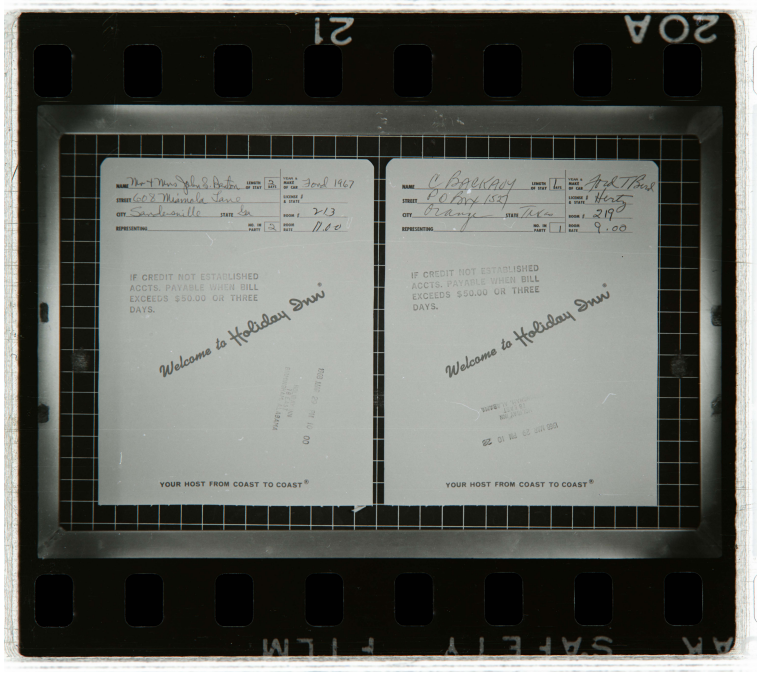

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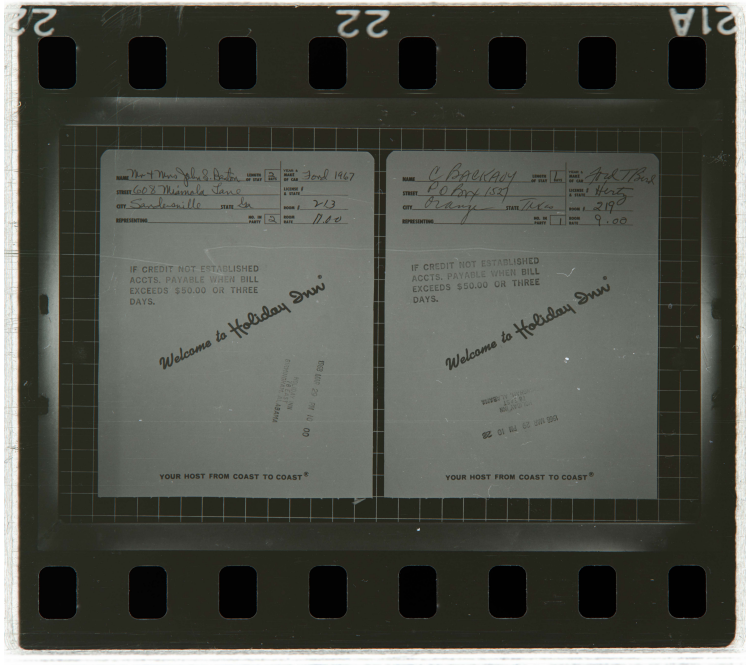

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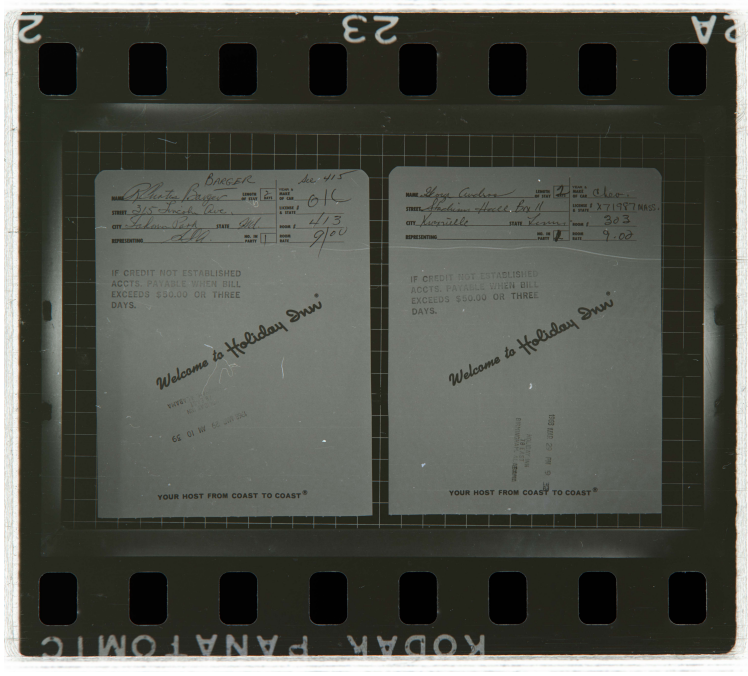

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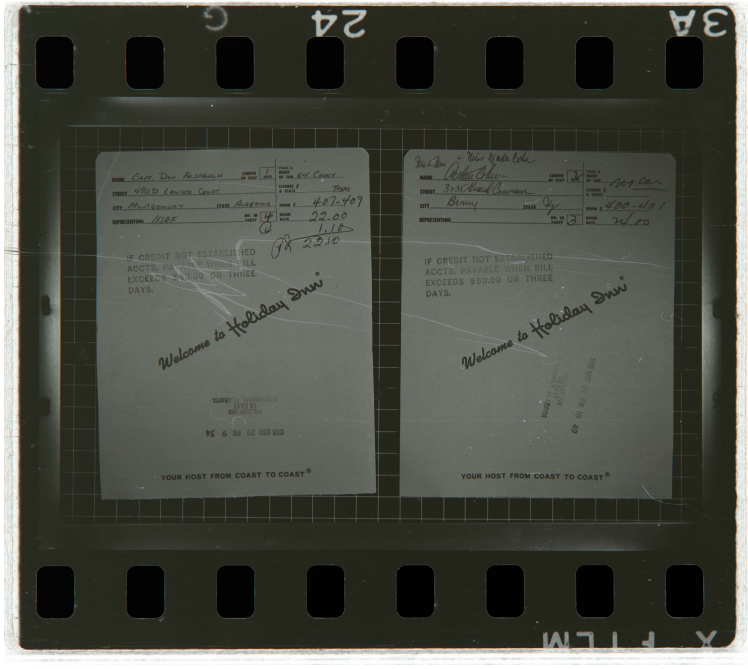

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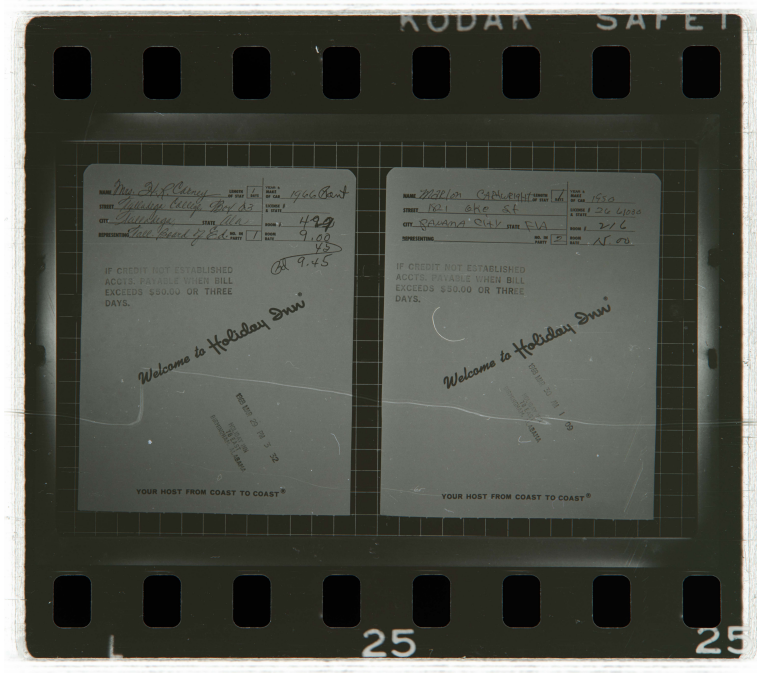

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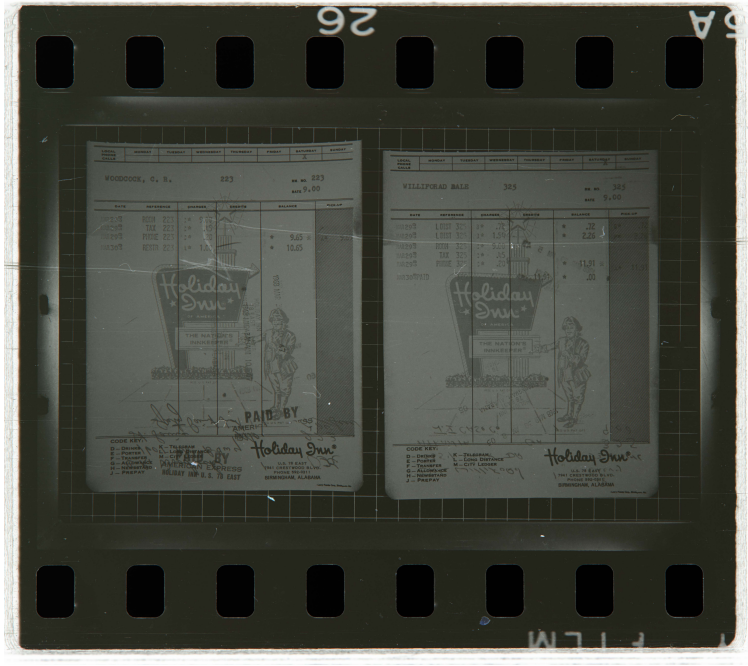

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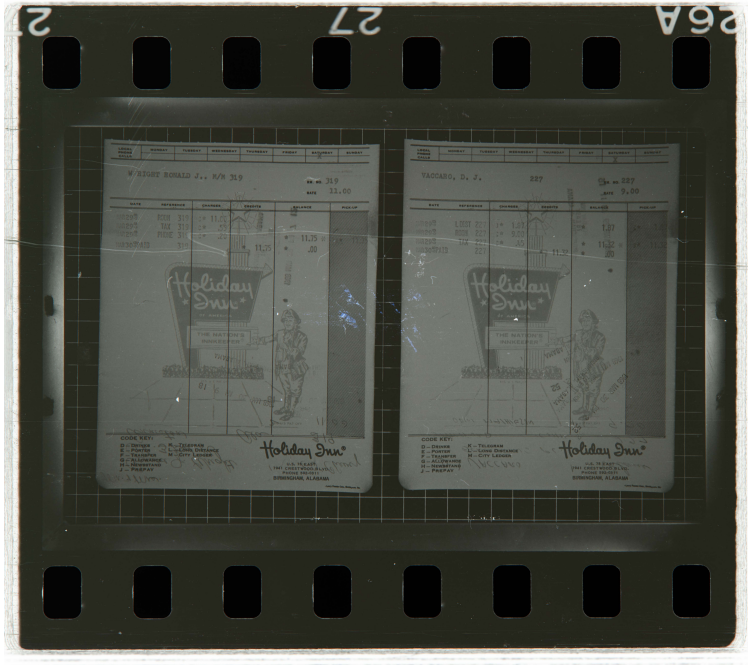

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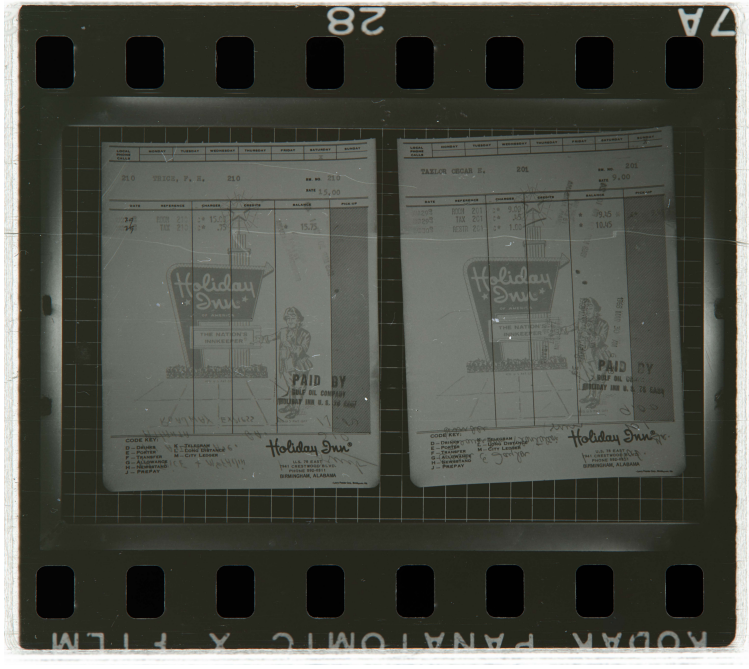

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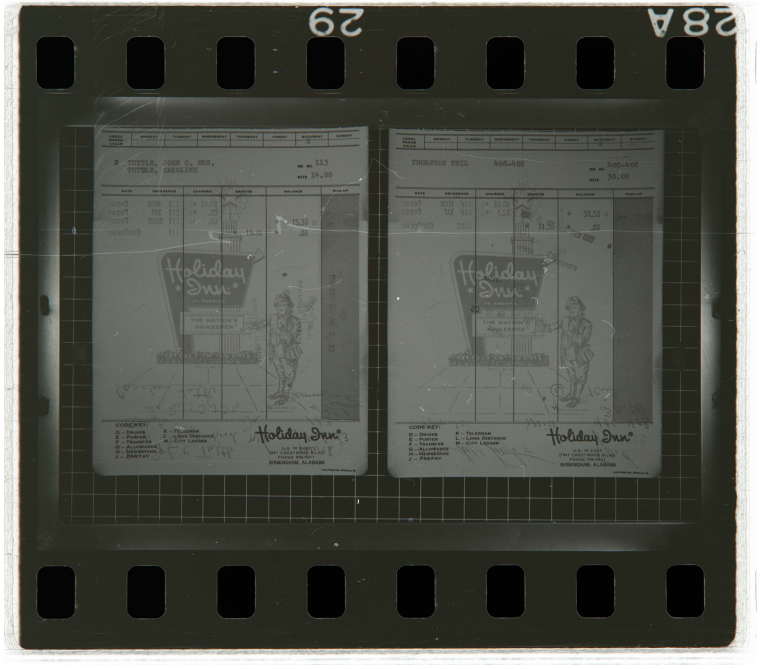

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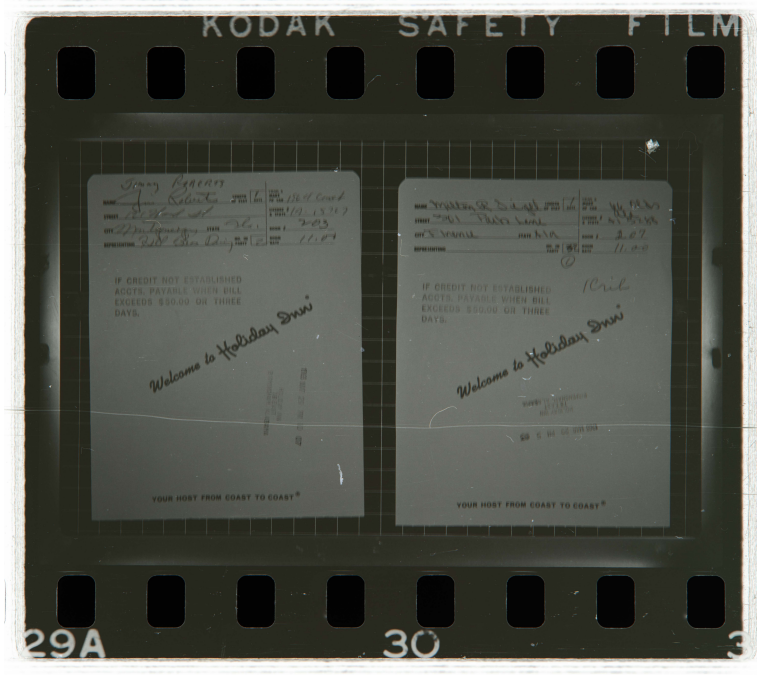

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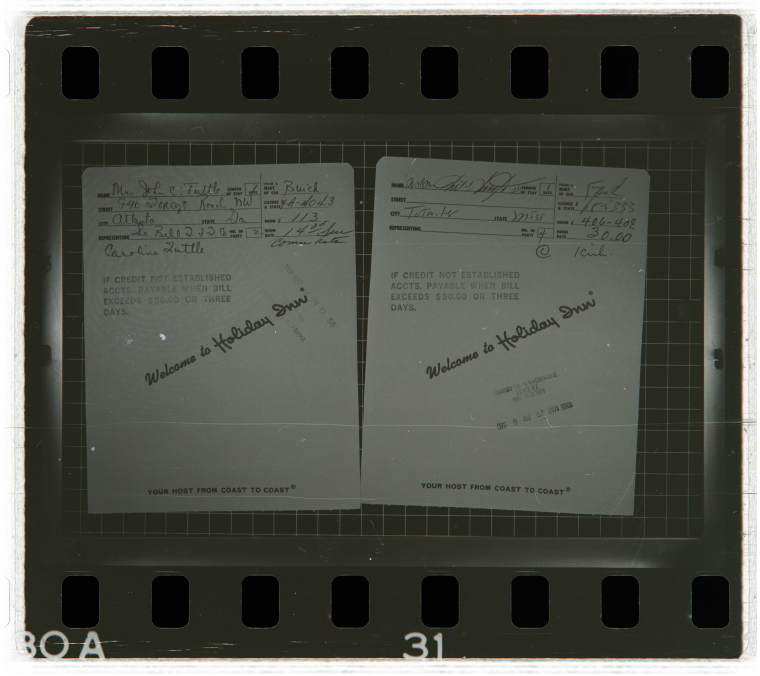

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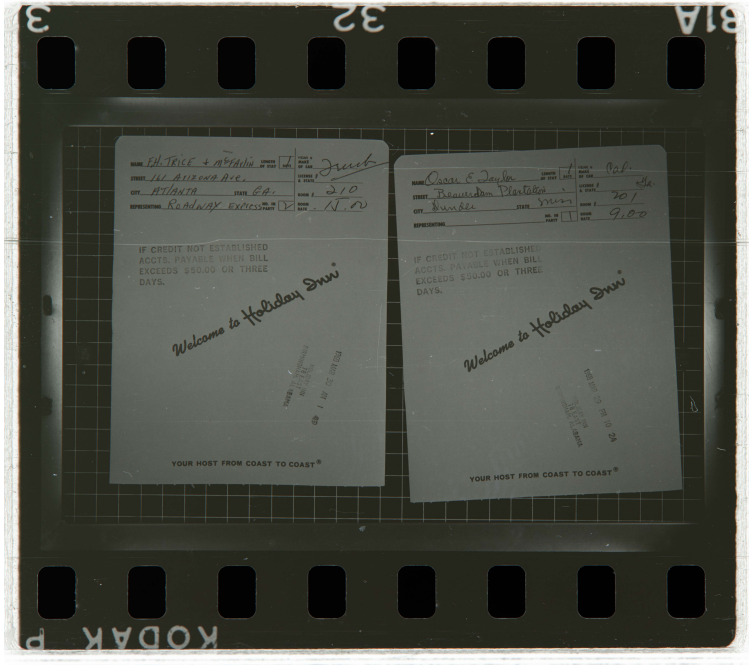

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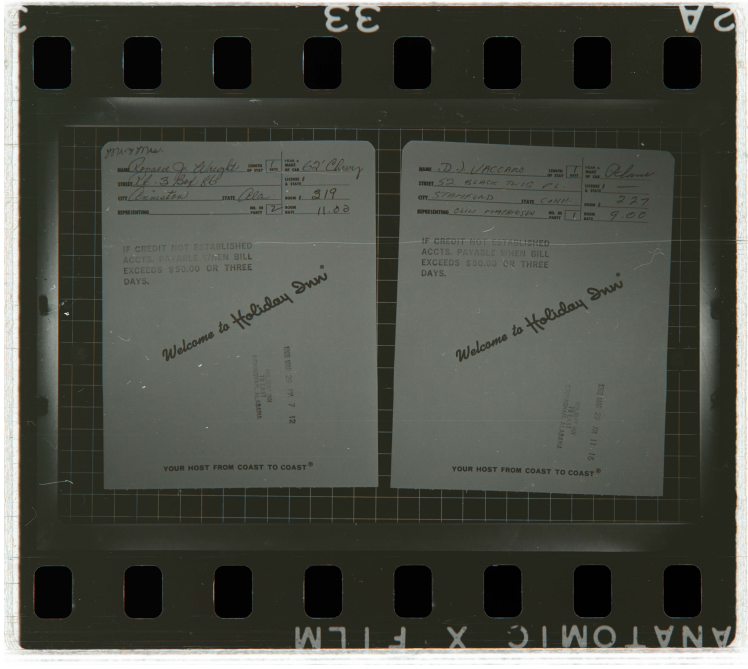

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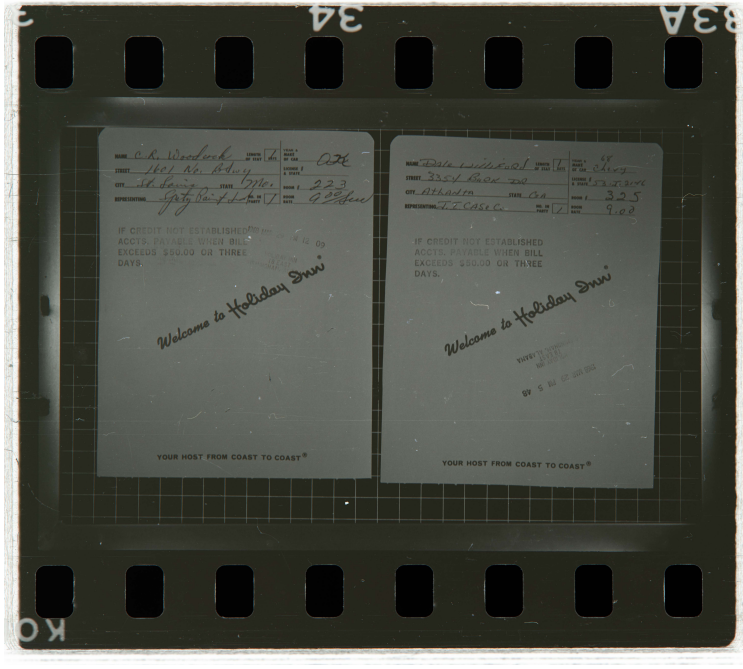

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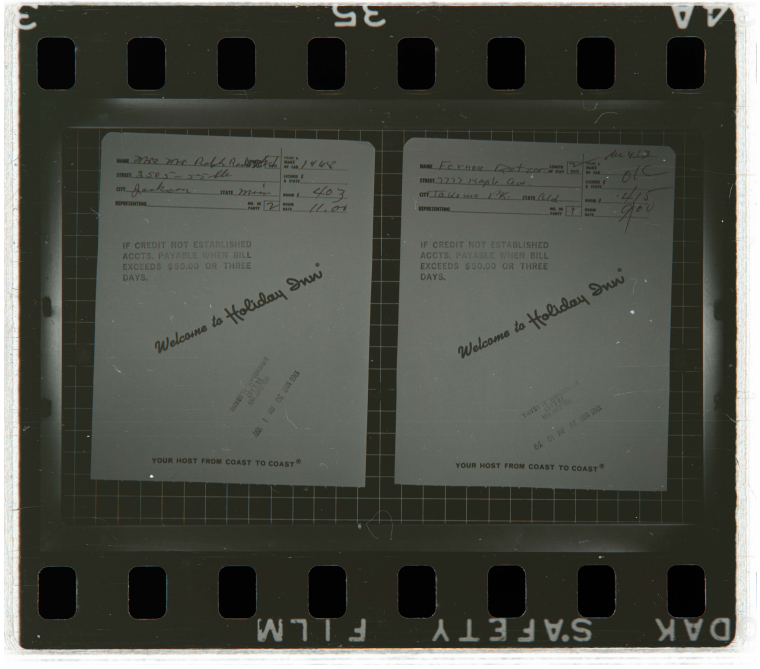

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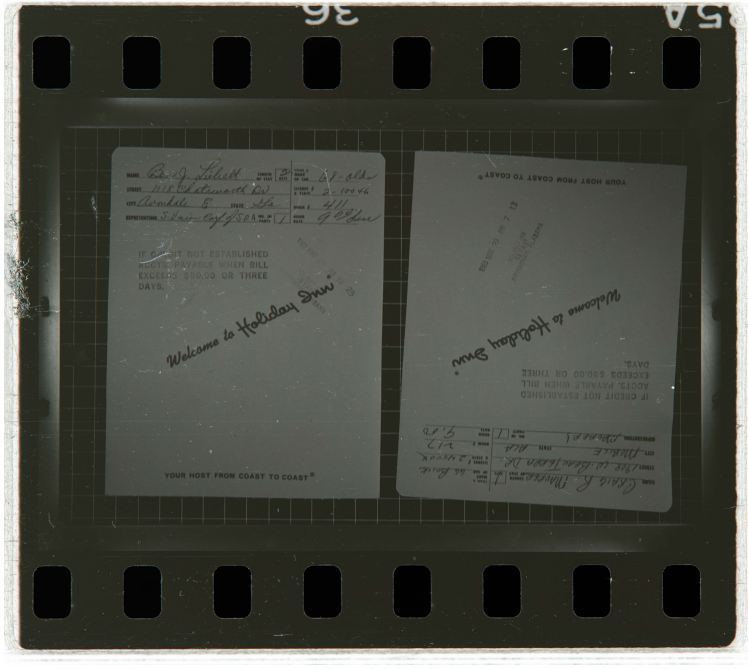

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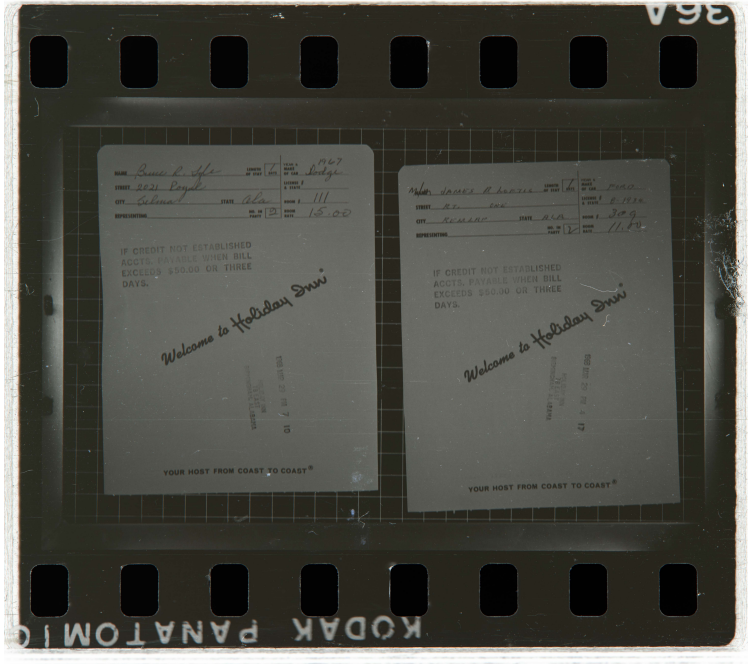

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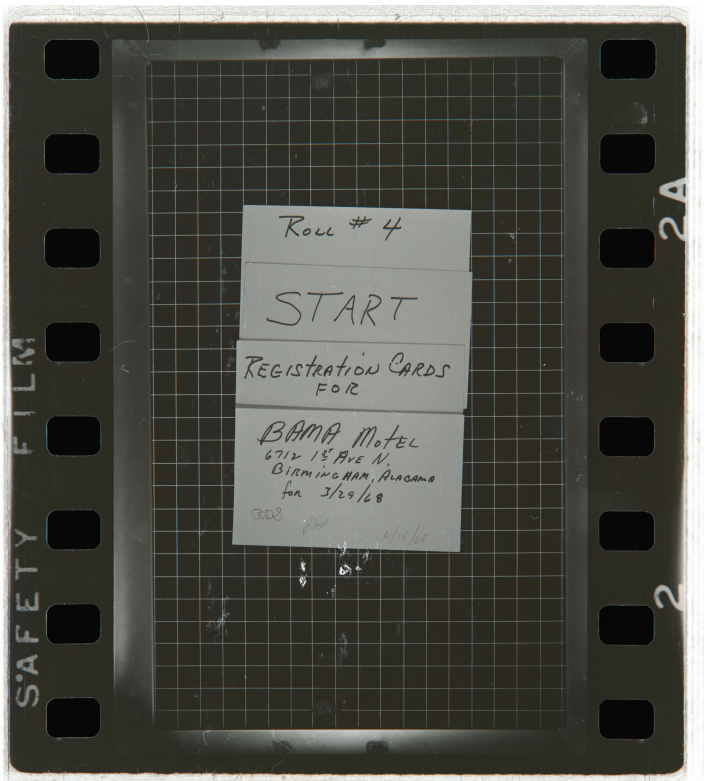

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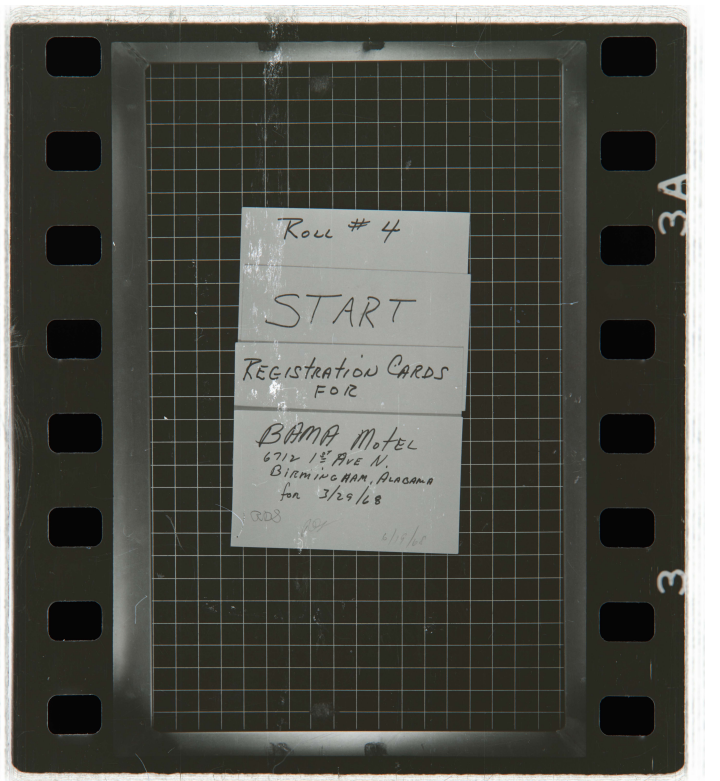

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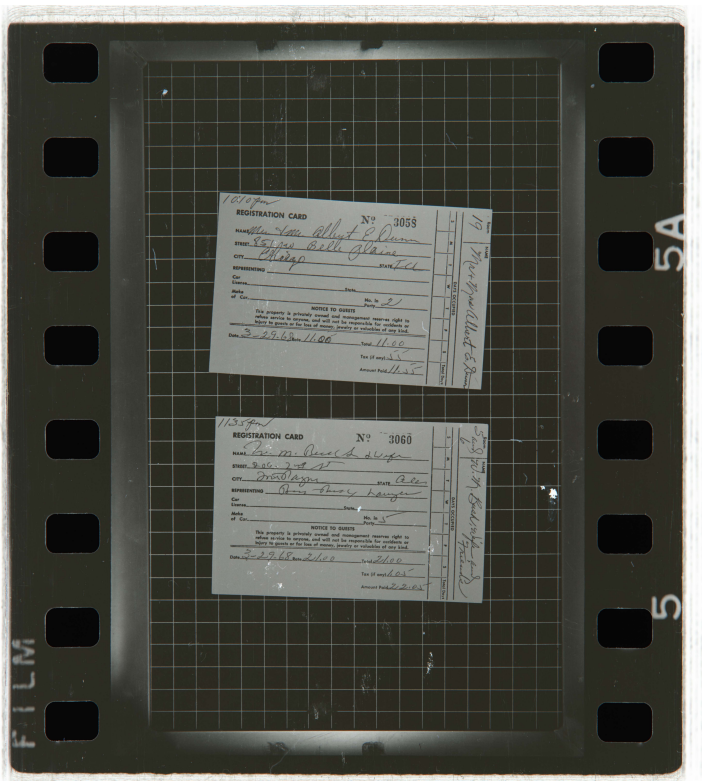

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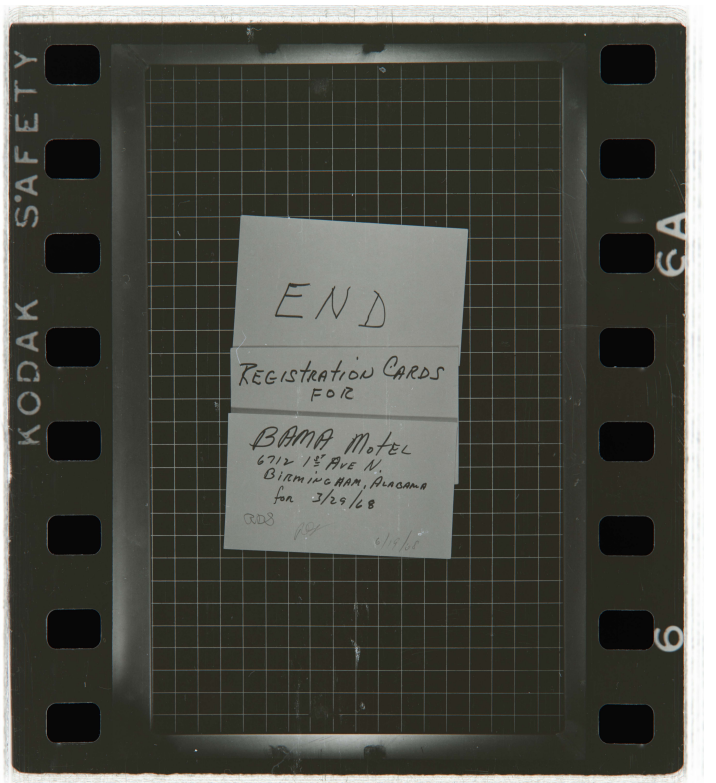

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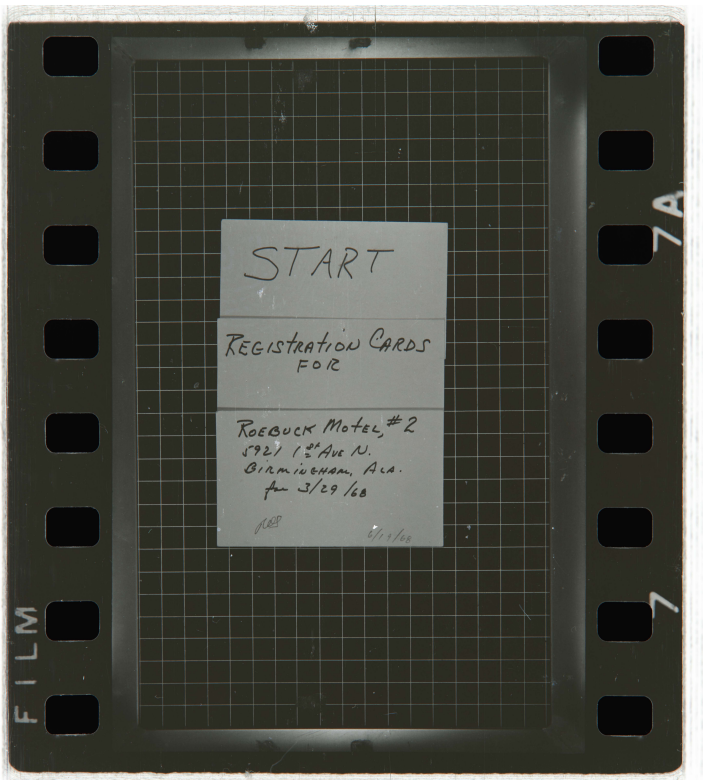

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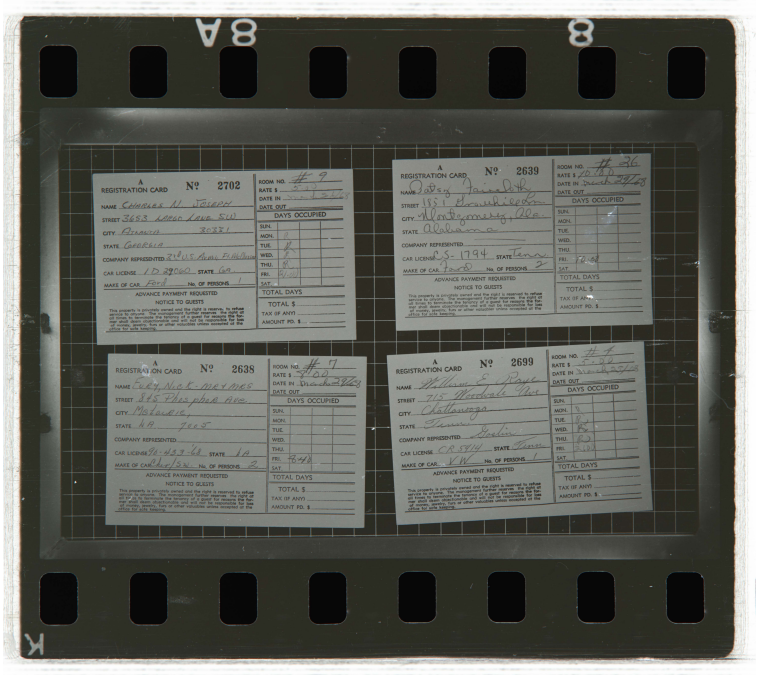

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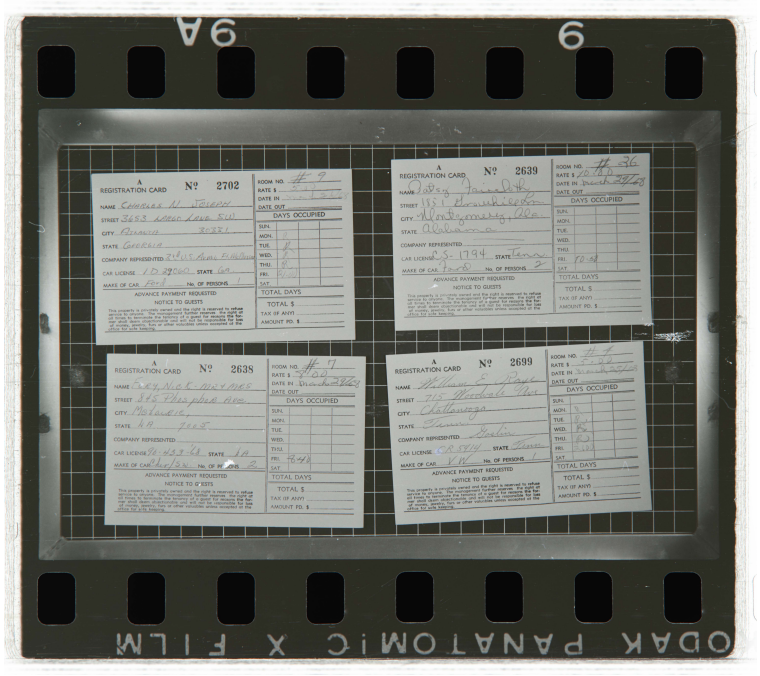

REGISTRATION CARD № 2702
NAME Commas N. Murphy
STREET 2653 Adair Cave S.W.
CITY Atlanta 30331
STATE Georgia
COMPANY REPRESENTED 214 U.S. Marine Fighting
CAR LICENSE ID 27960 STATE Ga
MAKE OF CAR Ford No. OF PERSONS 1
ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUESTED
NOTICE TO GUESTS
ROOM NO. #9
RATE $
DATE IN
DATE OUT
DAYS OCCUPIED
SUN. MON. TUE. WED. THU. FRI. SAT.
TOTAL DAYS
TOTAL $
TAX (IF ANY)
AMOUNT PD. $

REGISTRATION CARD № 2639
NAME Jerry Jaworski
STREET 155 E Bournhiem
CITY Montgomery Ala.
STATE Alabama
COMPANY REPRESENTED
CAR LICENSE 3S-1794 STATE Texas
MAKE OF CAR Ford No. OF PERSONS 2
ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUESTED
NOTICE TO GUESTS
ROOM NO. #36
RATE $ 20.00
DATE IN March 7th
DATE OUT
DAYS OCCUPIED
SUN. MON. TUE. WED. THU. FRI. T 10-12 SAT.
TOTAL DAYS
TOTAL $
TAX (IF ANY)
AMOUNT PD. $

REGISTRATION CARD № 2638
NAME Cary Nick Mixmas
STREET 315 Phaphia Ave.
CITY Mahaviel
STATE NH 7003
COMPANY REPRESENTED
CAR LICENSE 70-453-63 STATE NH
MAKE OF CAR Ford No. OF PERSONS 2
ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUESTED
NOTICE TO GUESTS
ROOM NO. #17
RATE $ 20.00
DATE IN March 7th
DATE OUT
DAYS OCCUPIED
SUN. MON. TUE. WED. THU. FRI. T 6-12 SAT.
TOTAL DAYS
TOTAL $
TAX (IF ANY)
AMOUNT PD. $

REGISTRATION CARD № 2699
NAME William E. Hayes
STREET 715 Marshall Ave.
CITY Chattanooga
STATE Tennessee
COMPANY REPRESENTED
CAR LICENSE CR 5711 STATE Tenn
MAKE OF CAR Ford No. OF PERSONS 2
ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUESTED
NOTICE TO GUESTS
ROOM NO. #1
RATE $ 20.00
DATE IN March 7th
DATE OUT
DAYS OCCUPIED
SUN. MON. T-12 TUE. WED. T-12 THU. T-12 FRI. T-12 SAT.
TOTAL DAYS
TOTAL $
TAX (IF ANY)
AMOUNT PD. $

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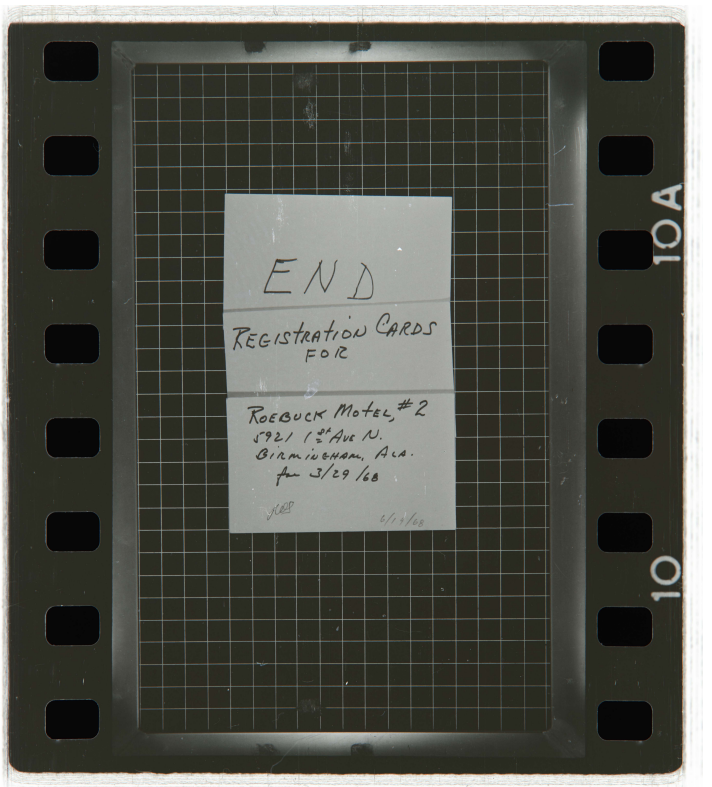

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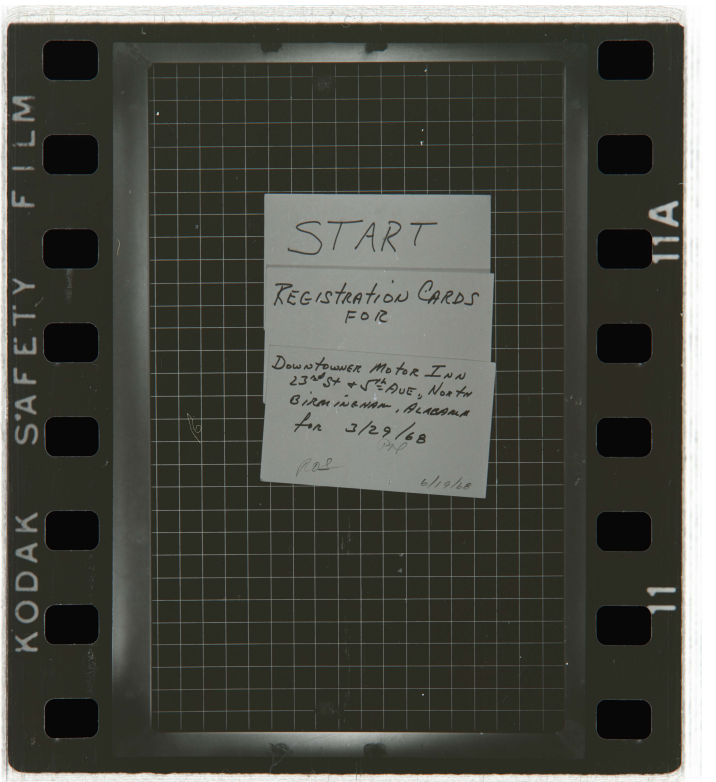

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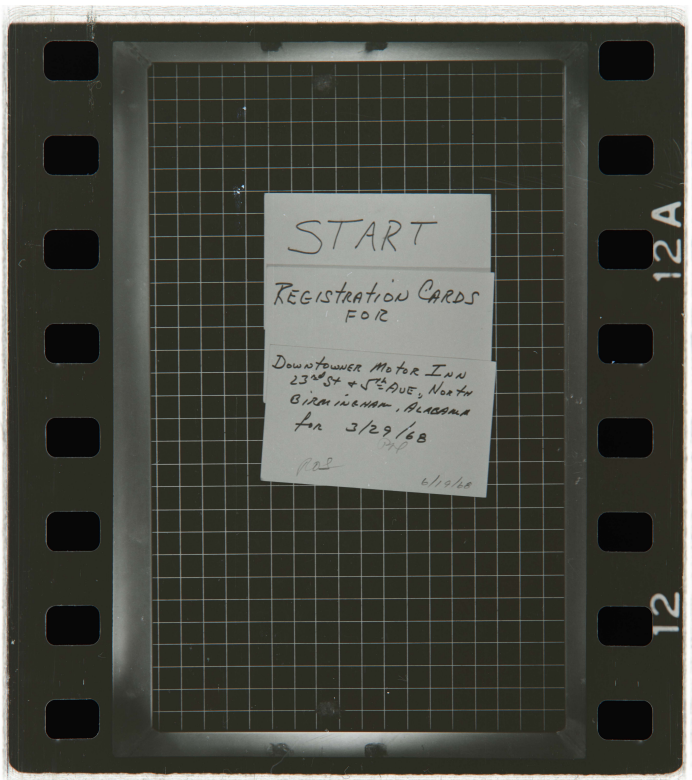

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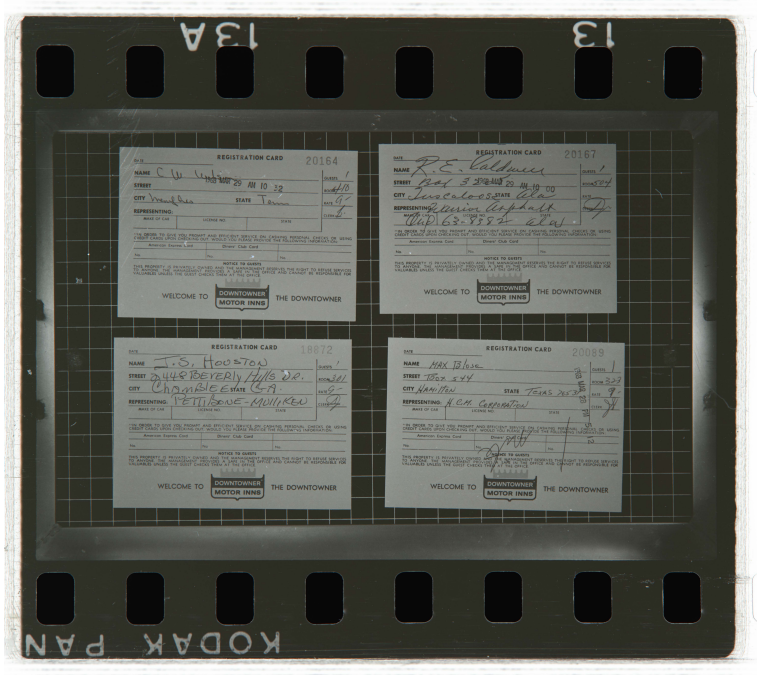

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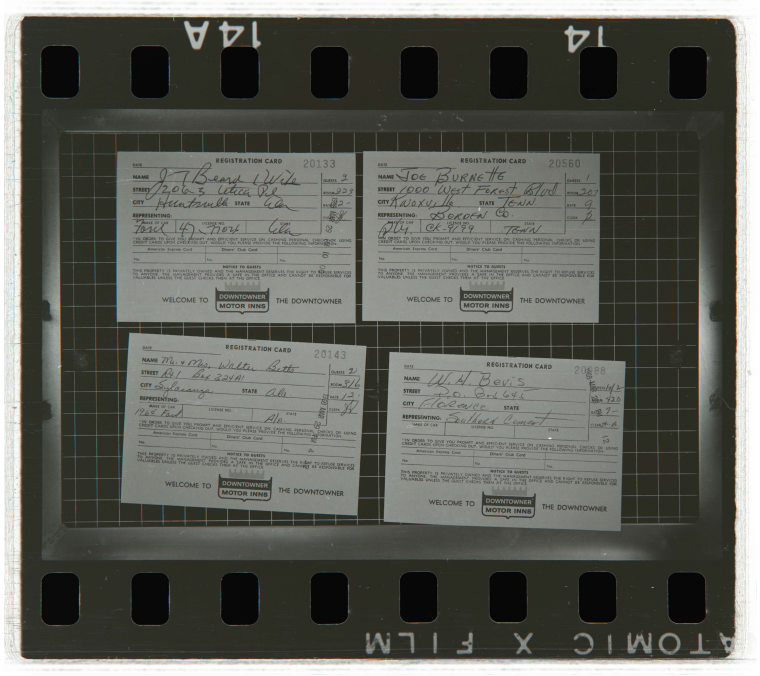

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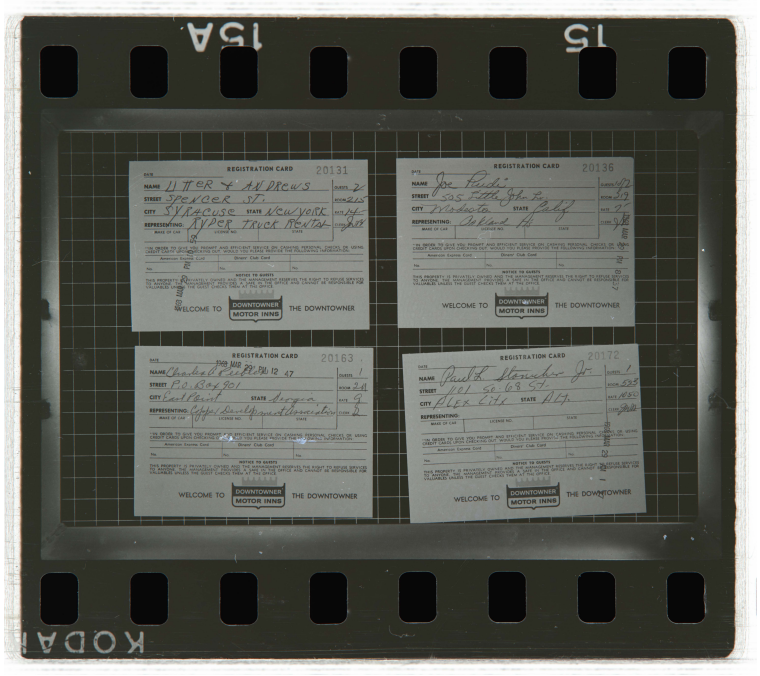

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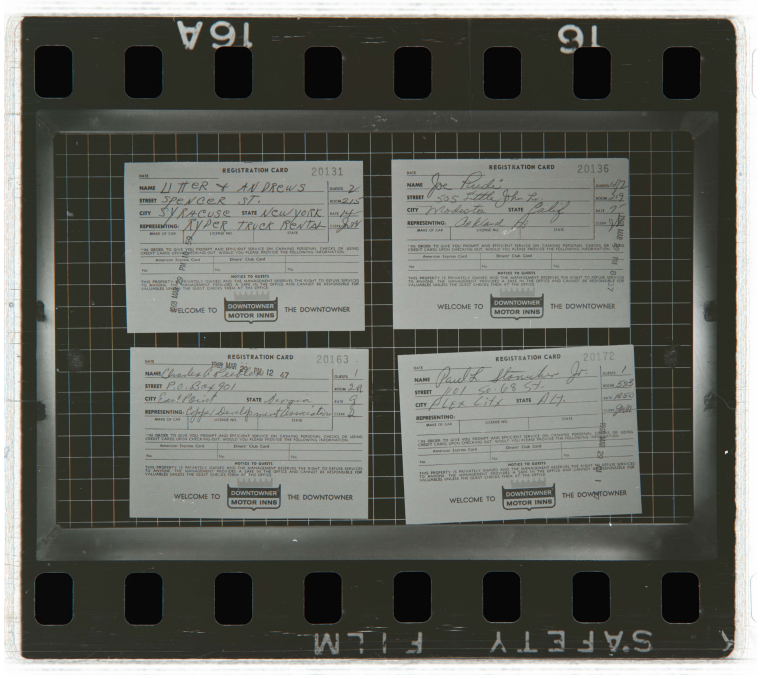

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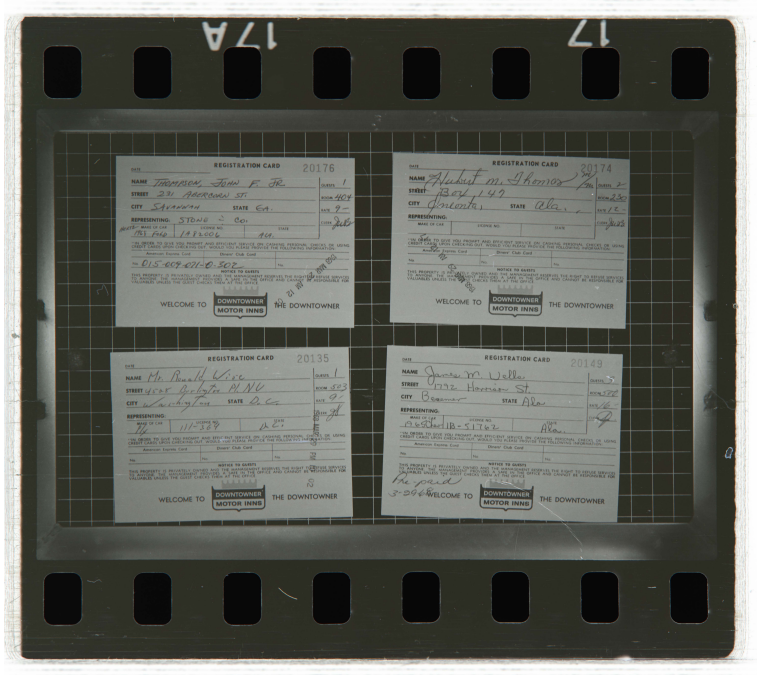

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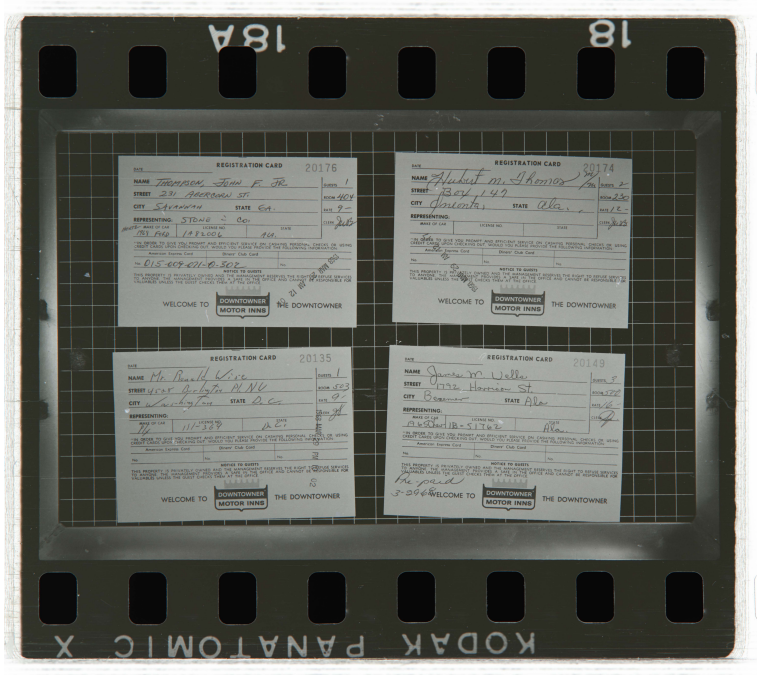

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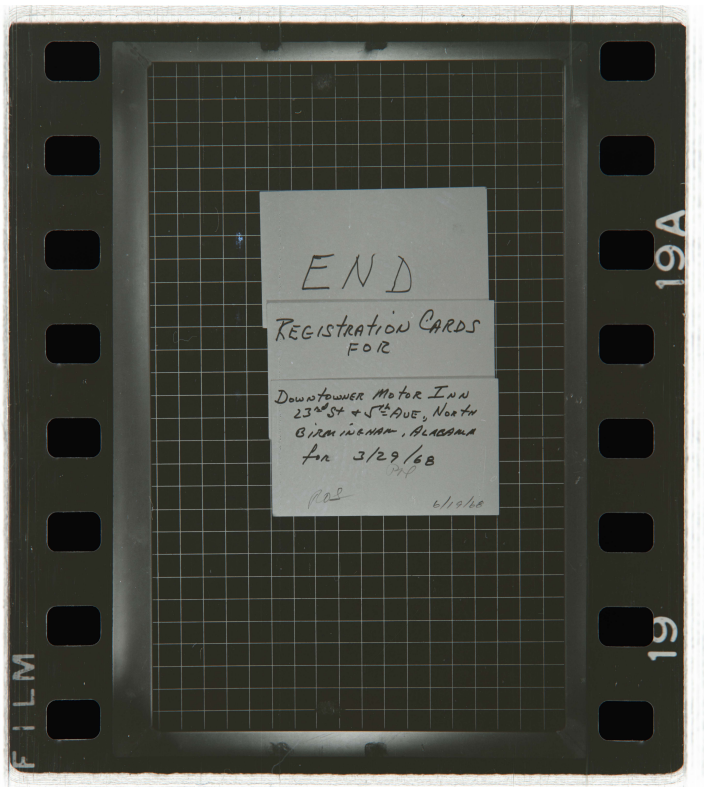

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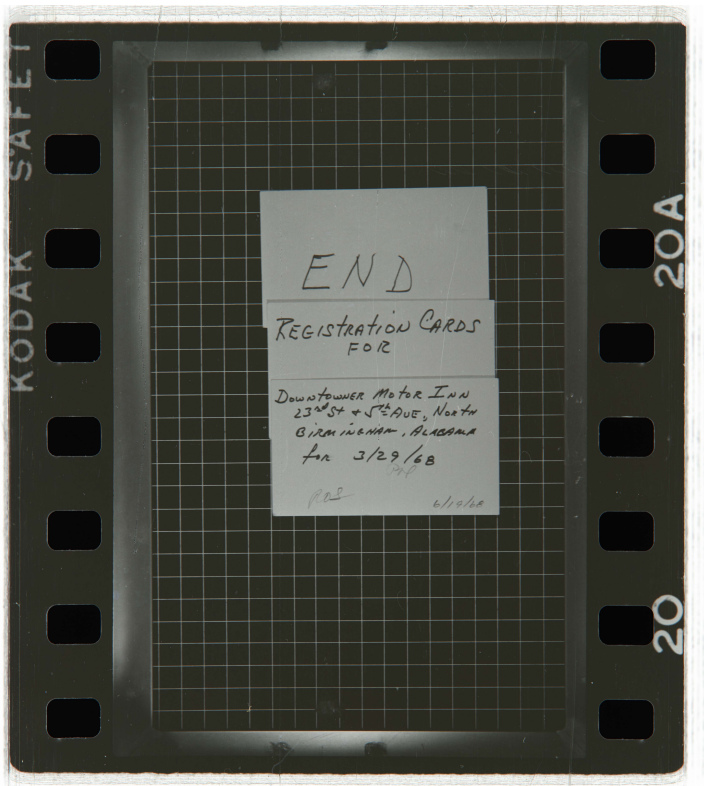

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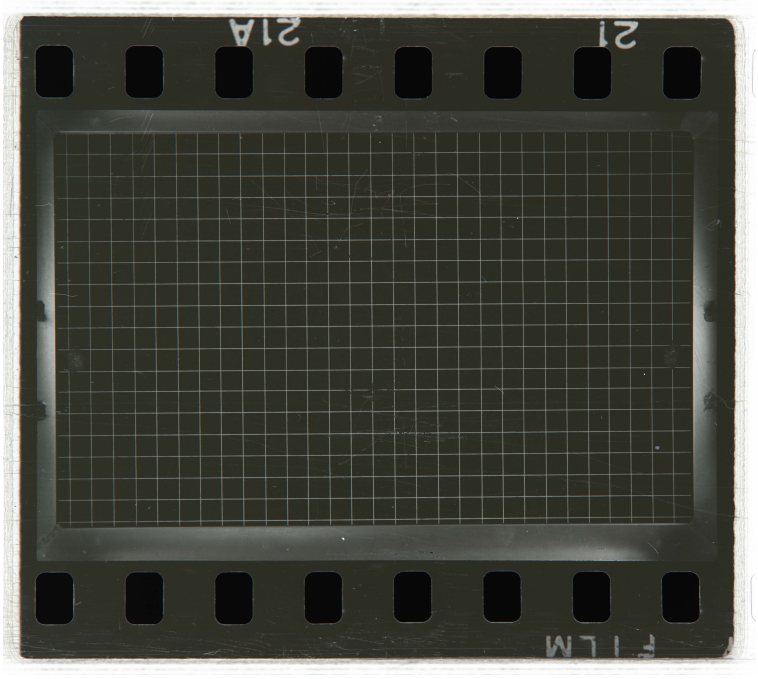

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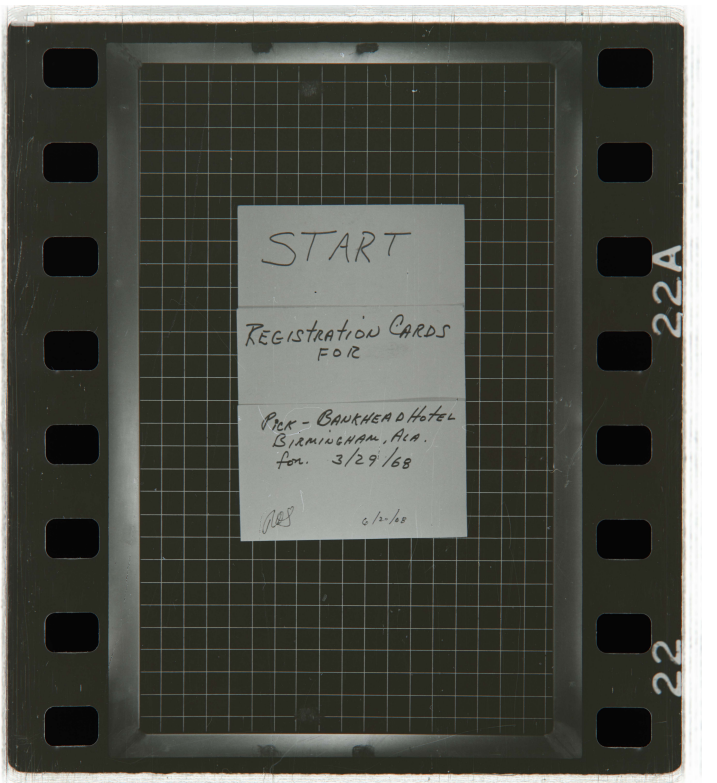

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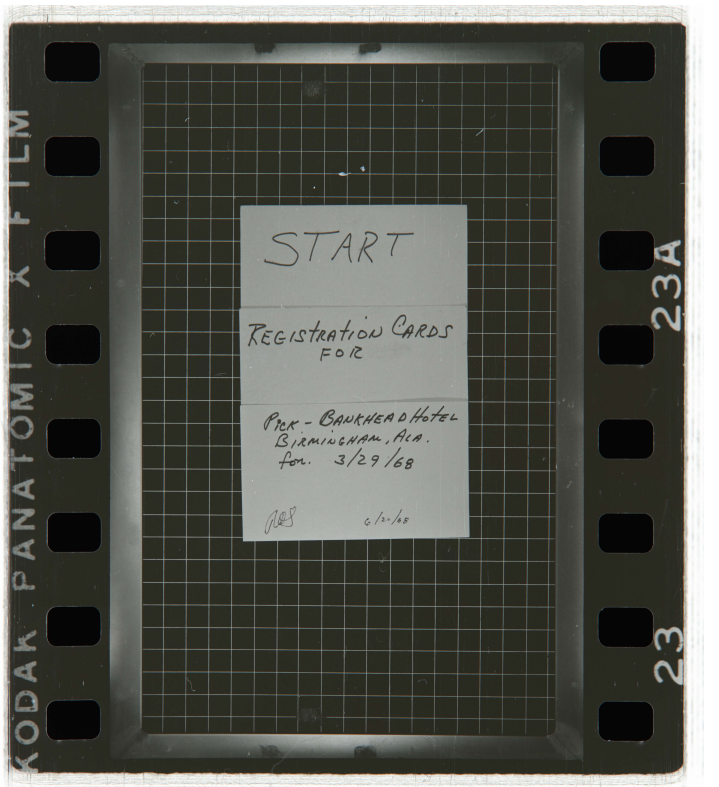

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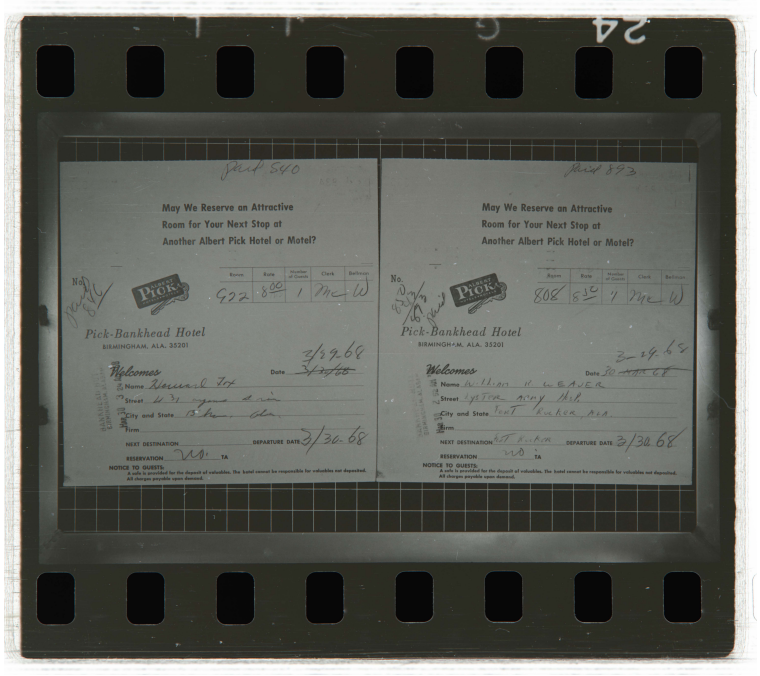

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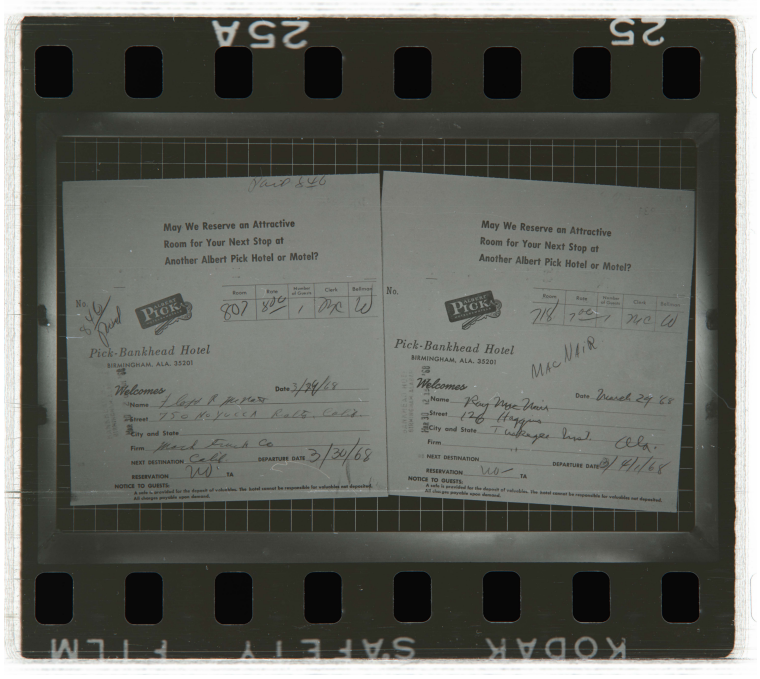

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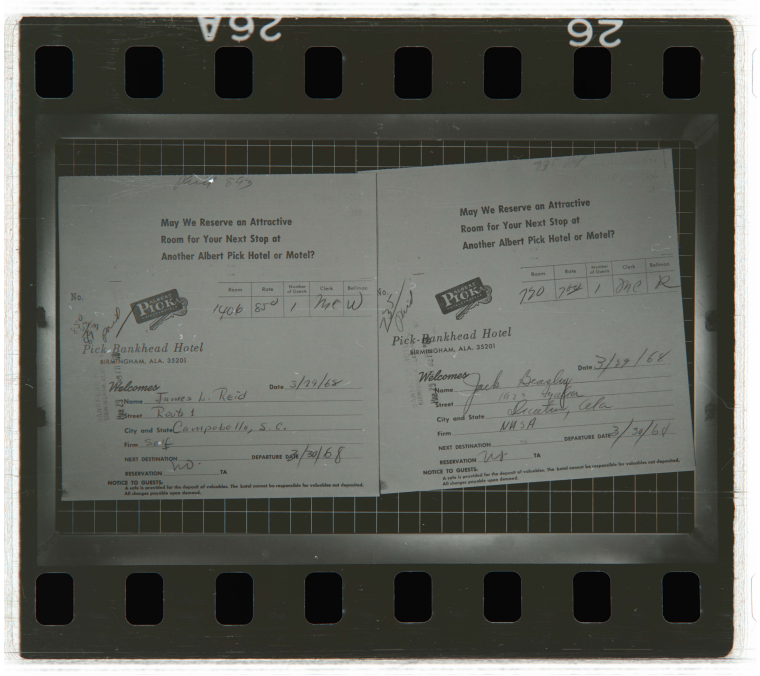

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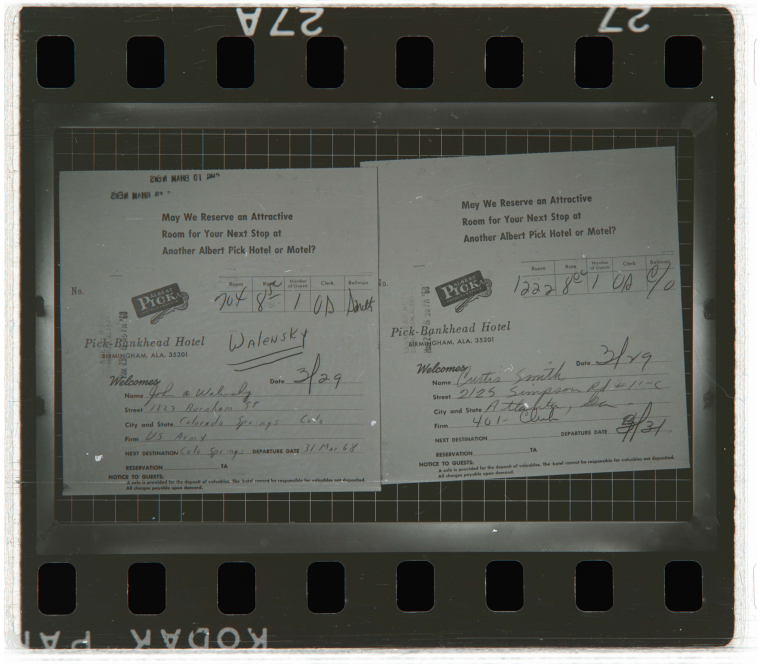

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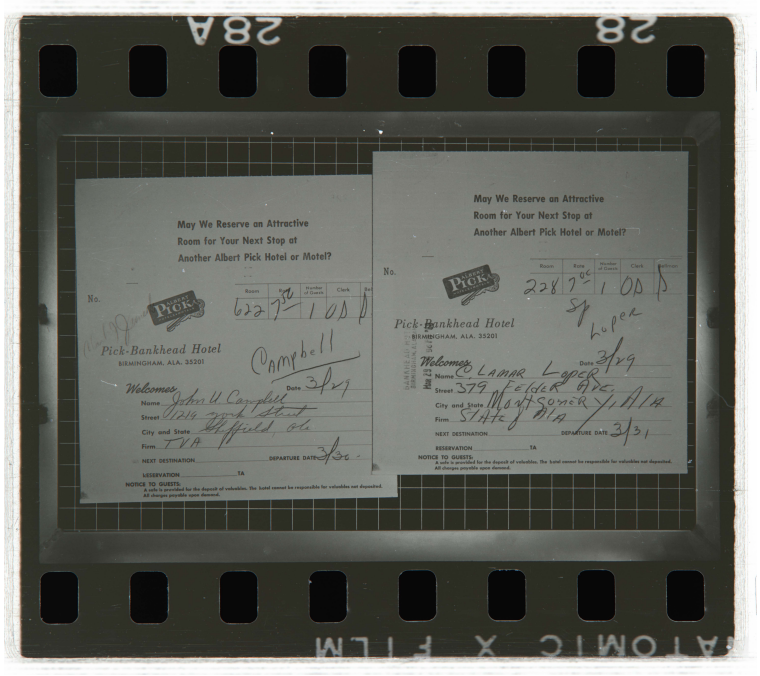

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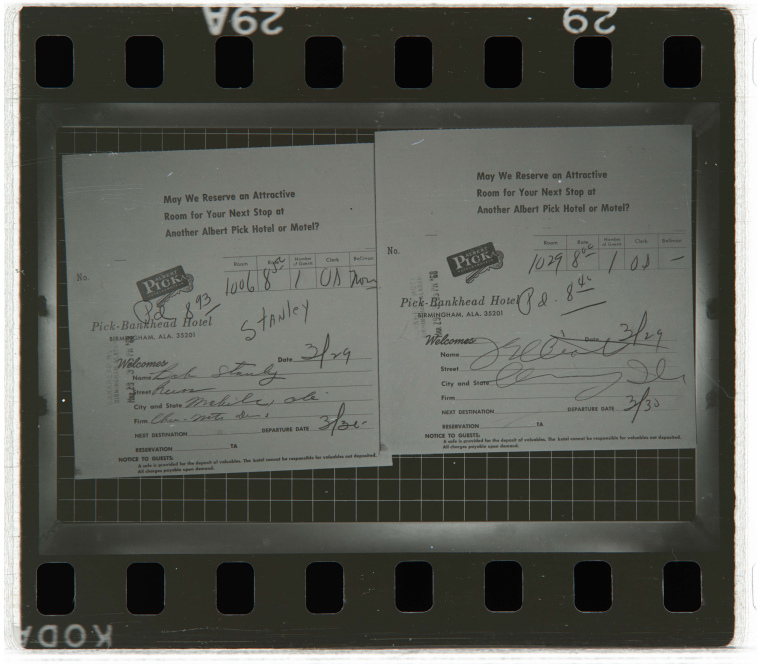

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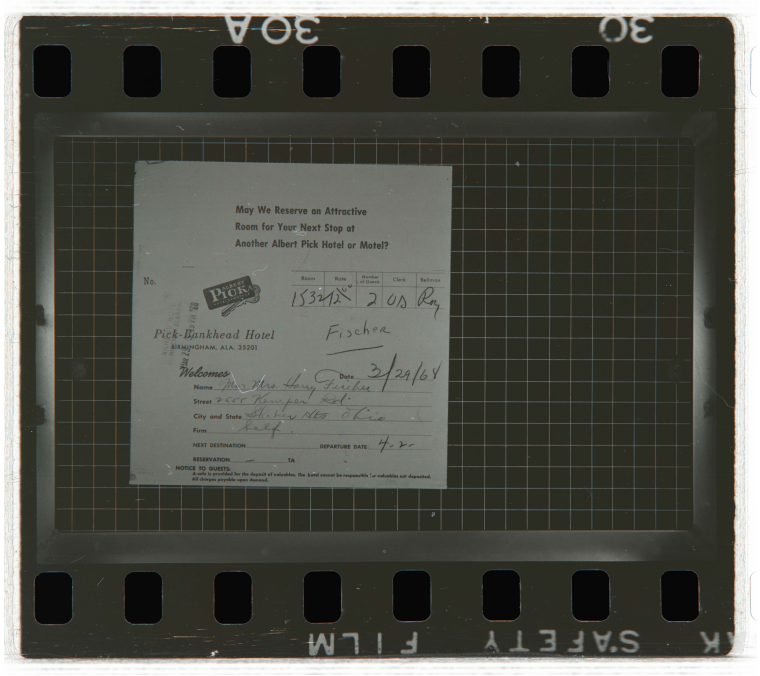

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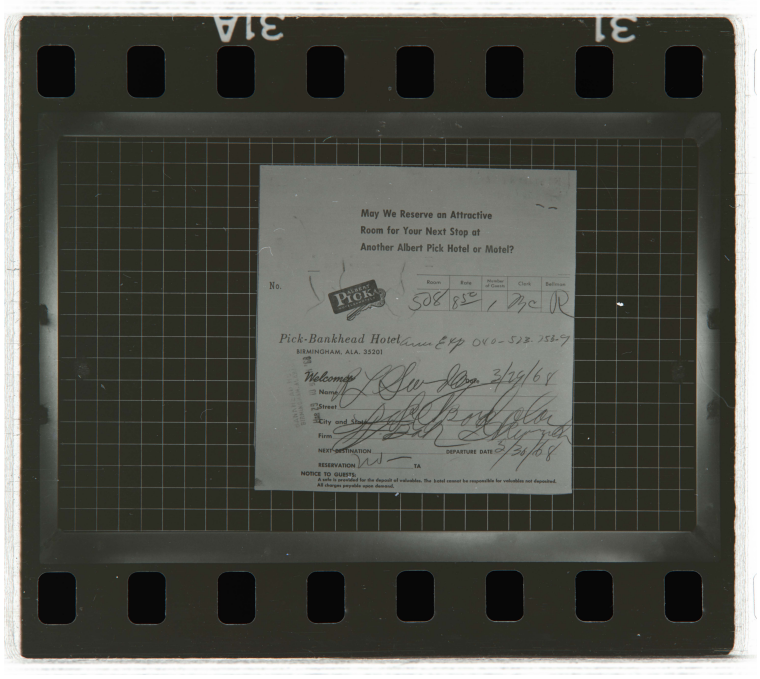

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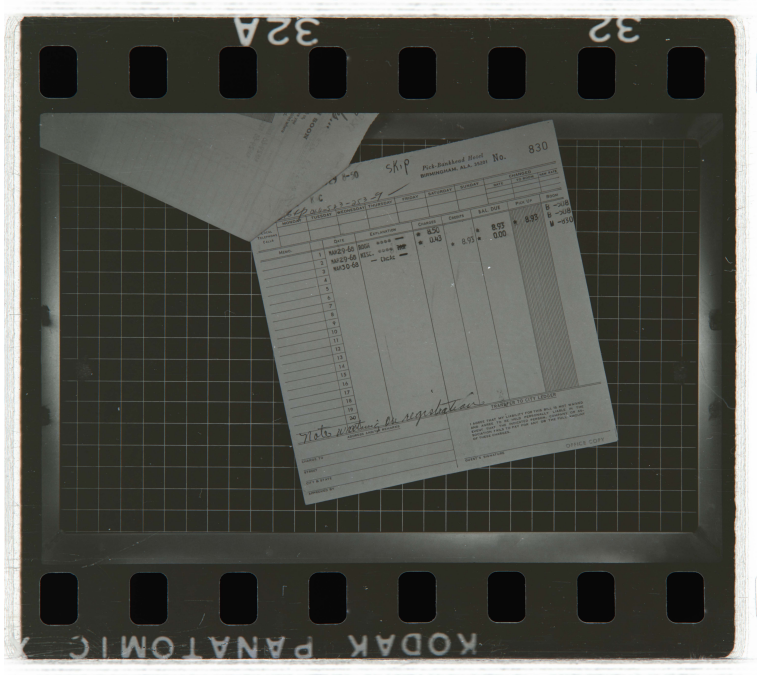

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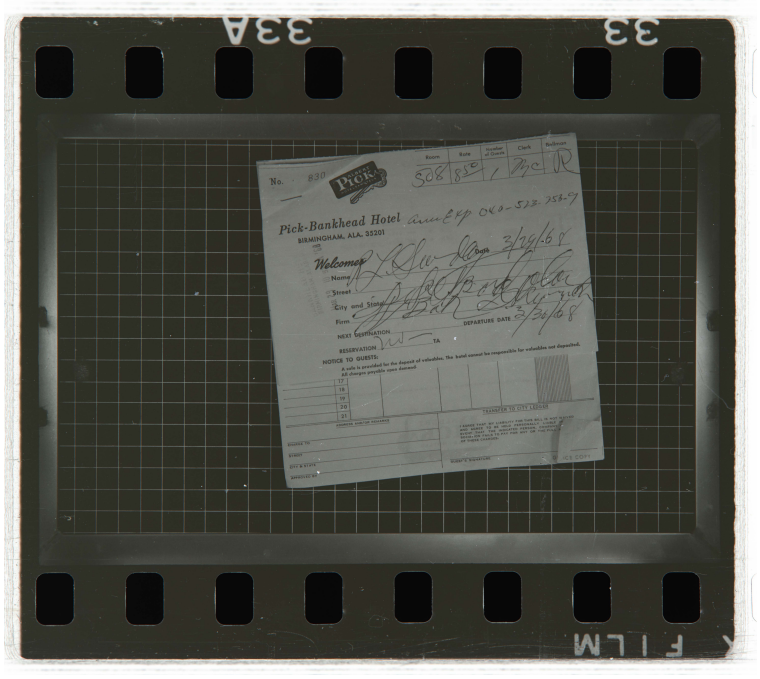

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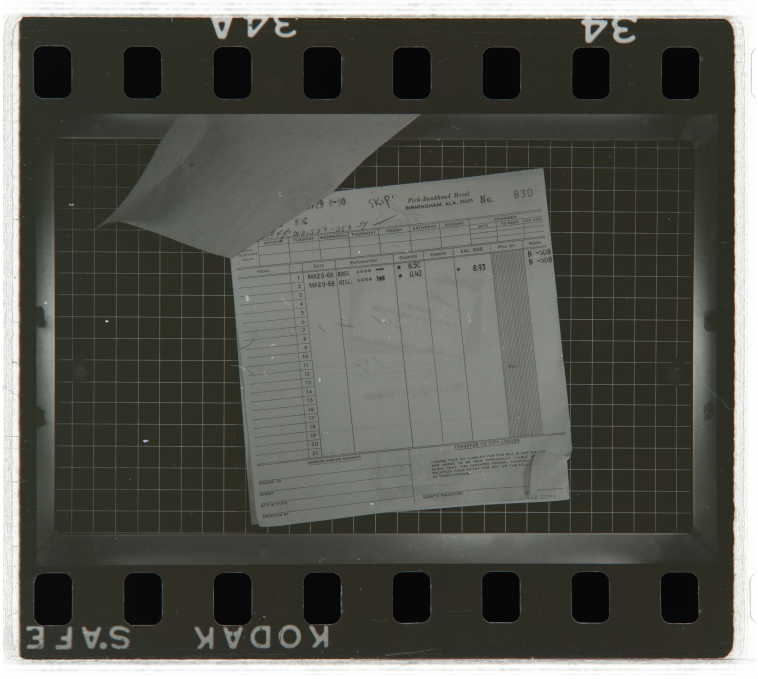

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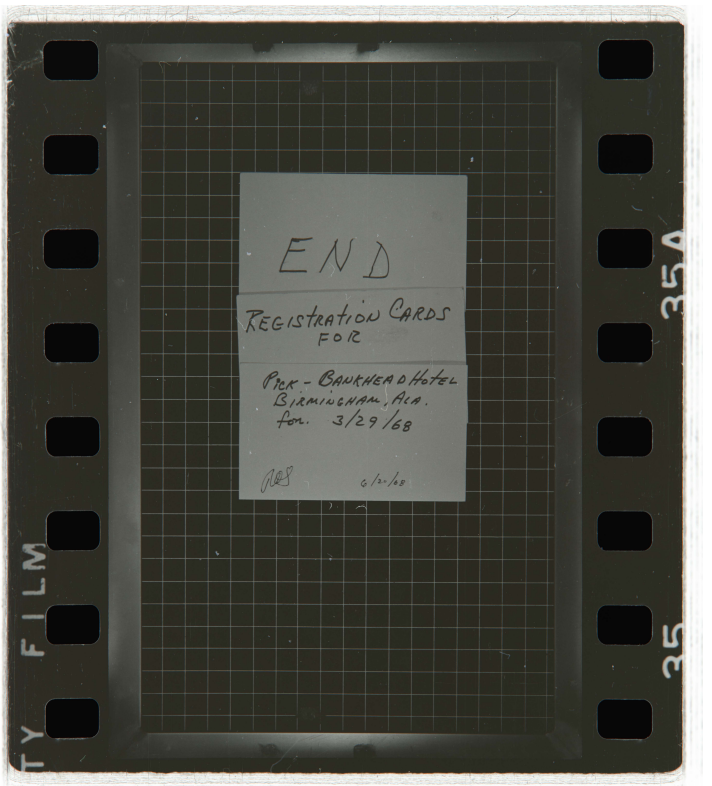

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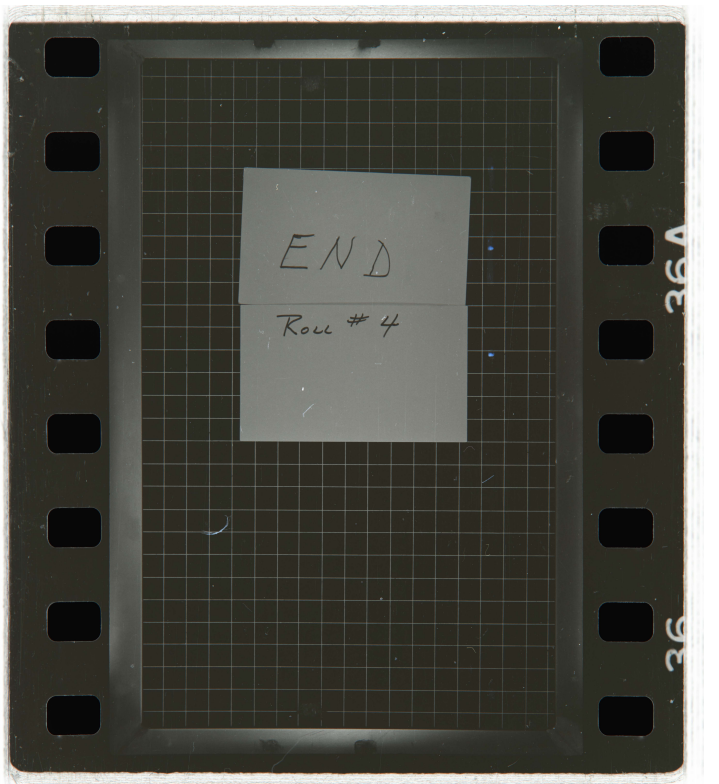

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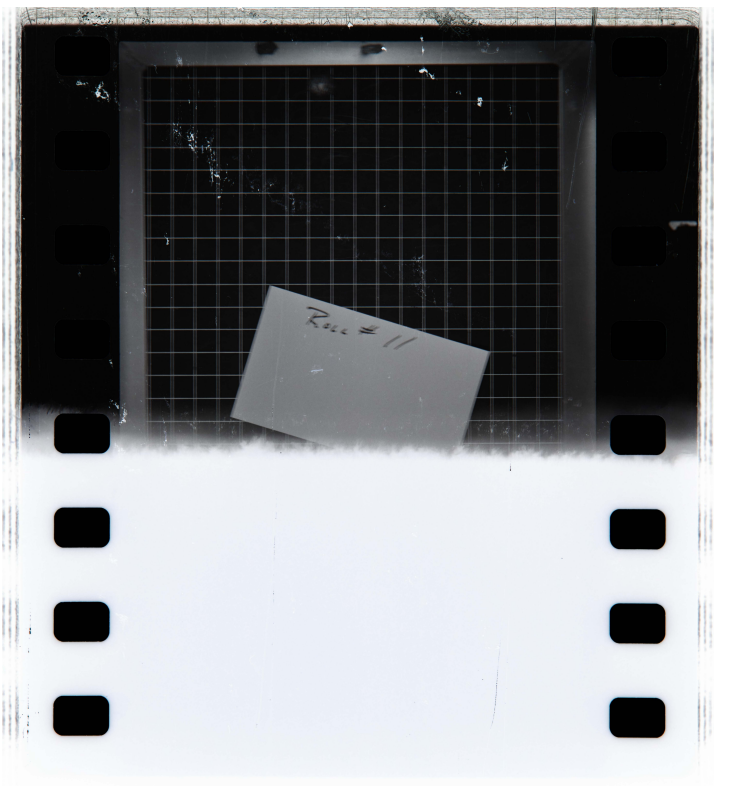

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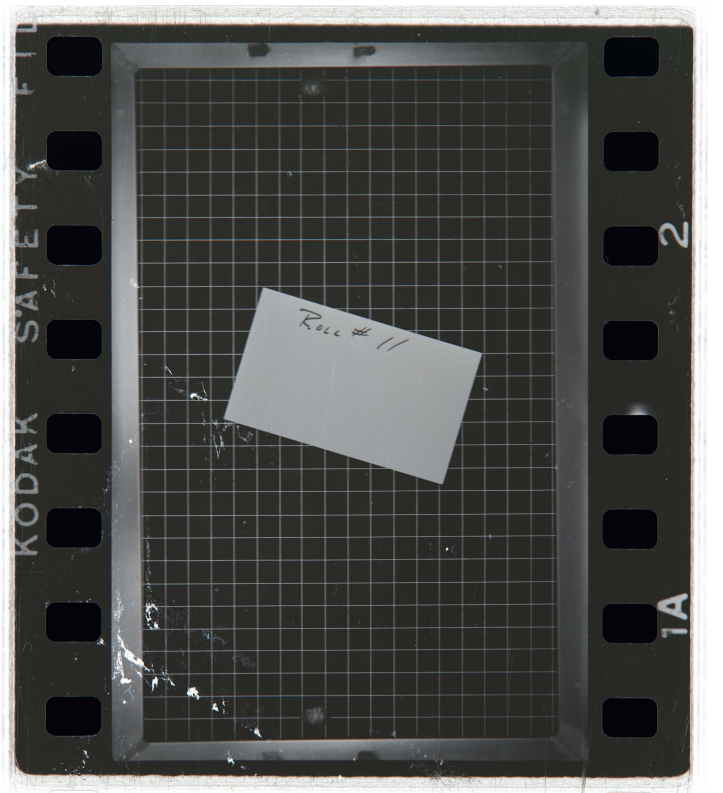

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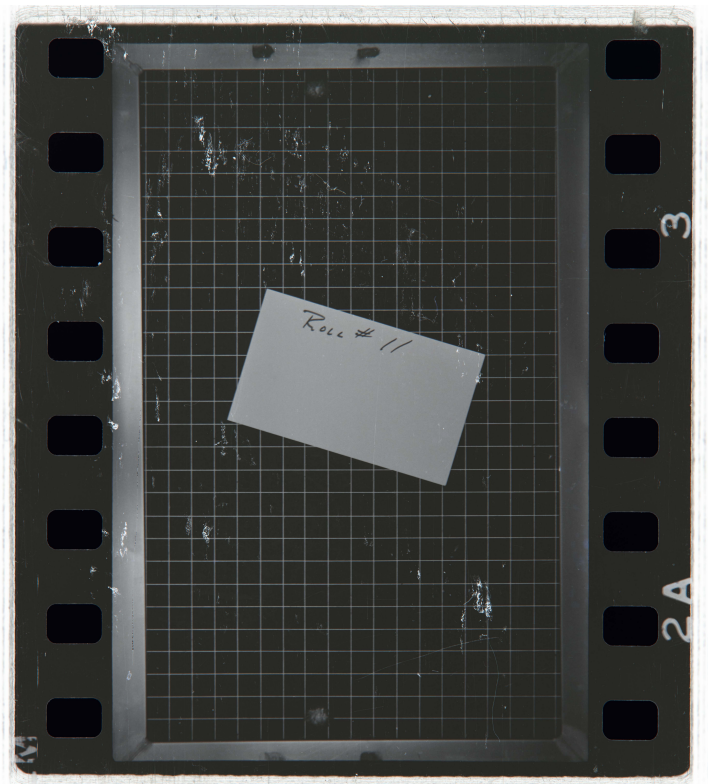

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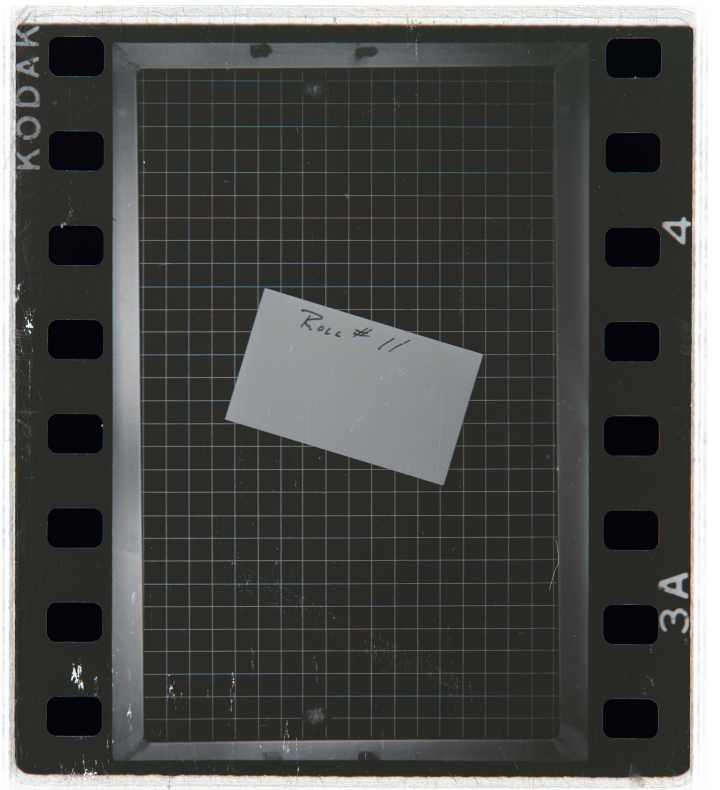

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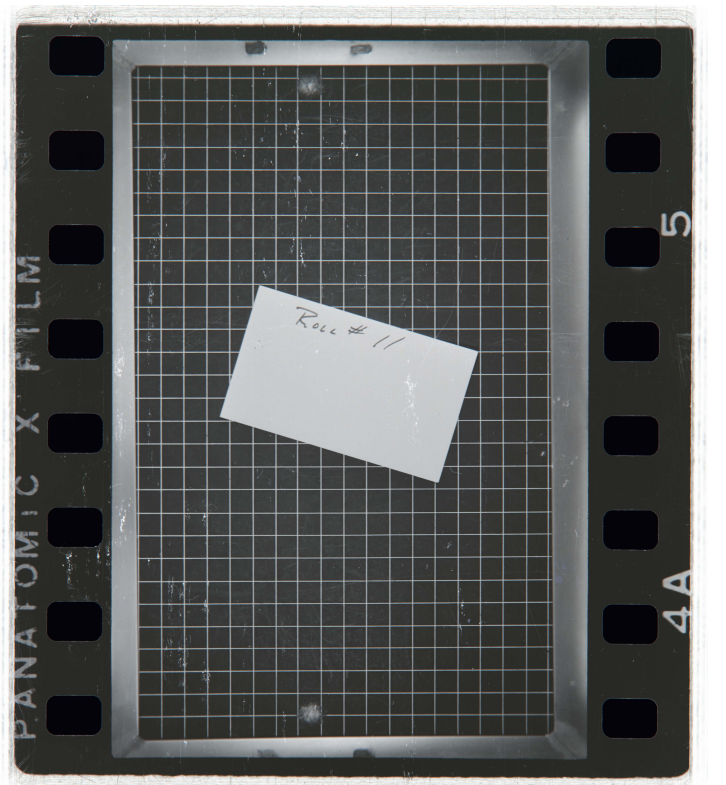

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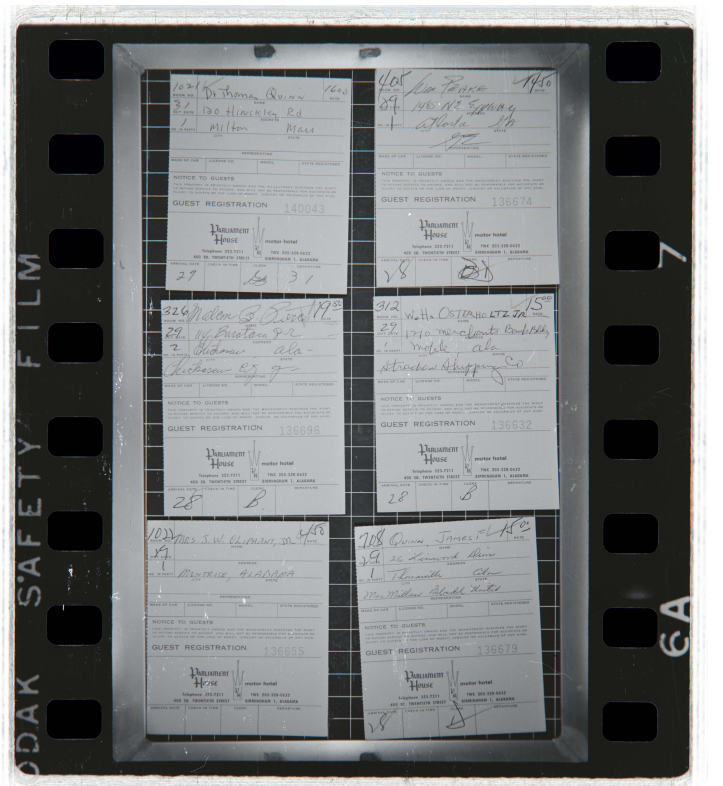

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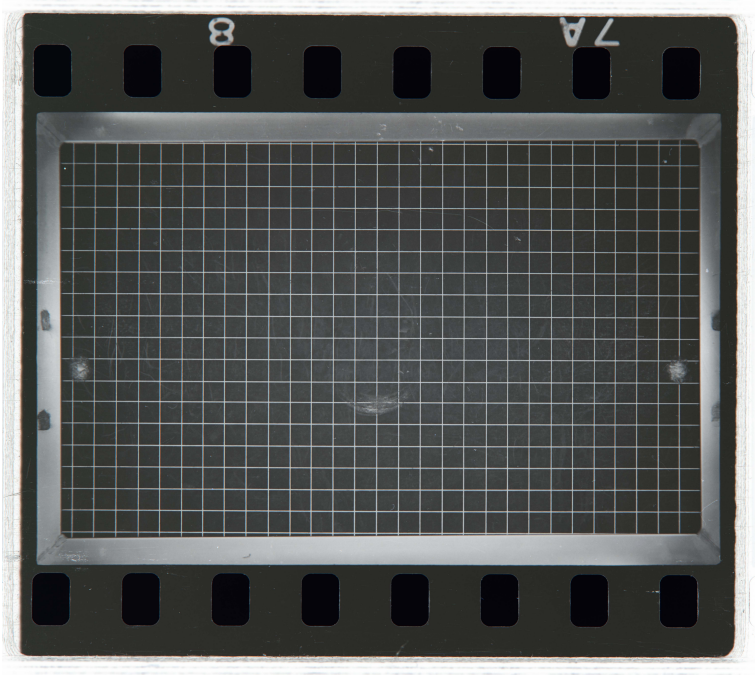

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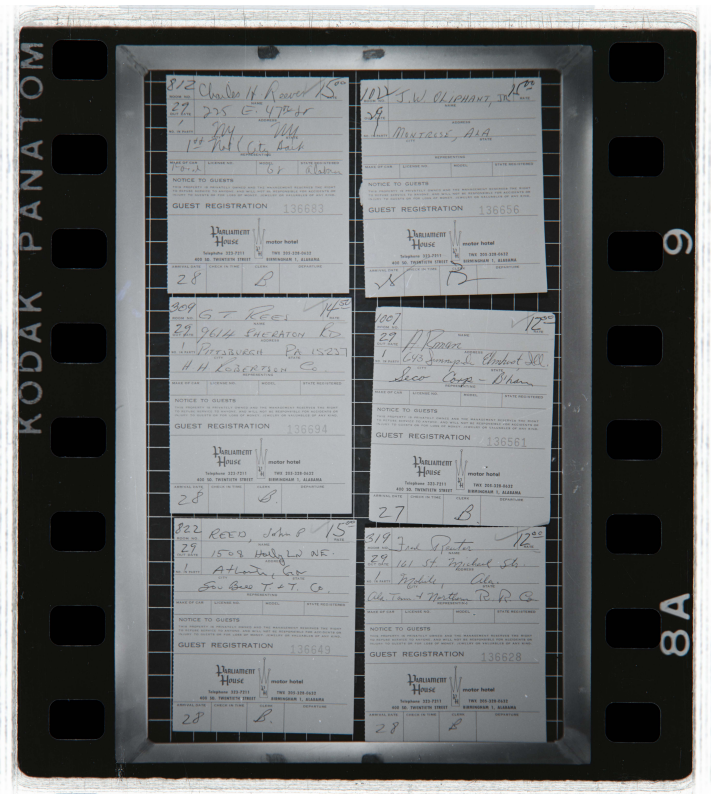

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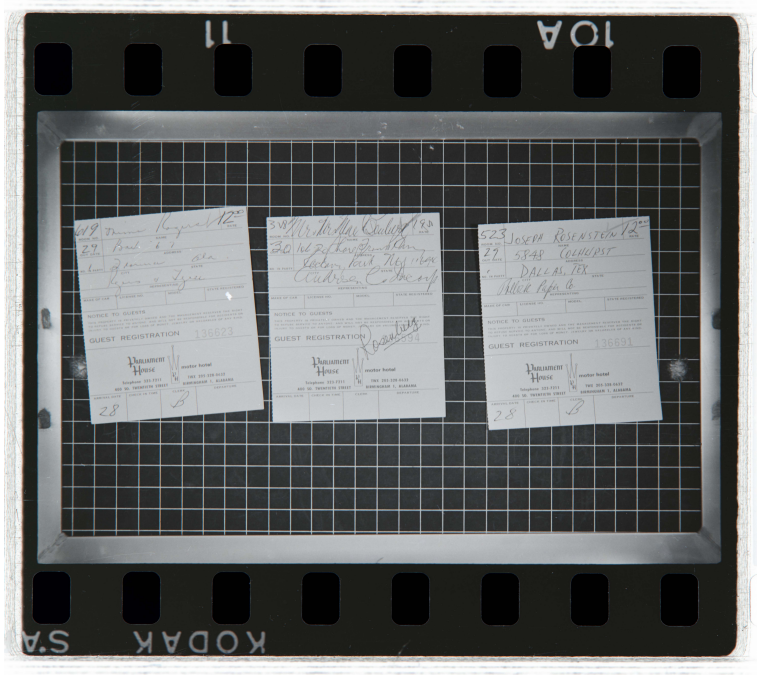

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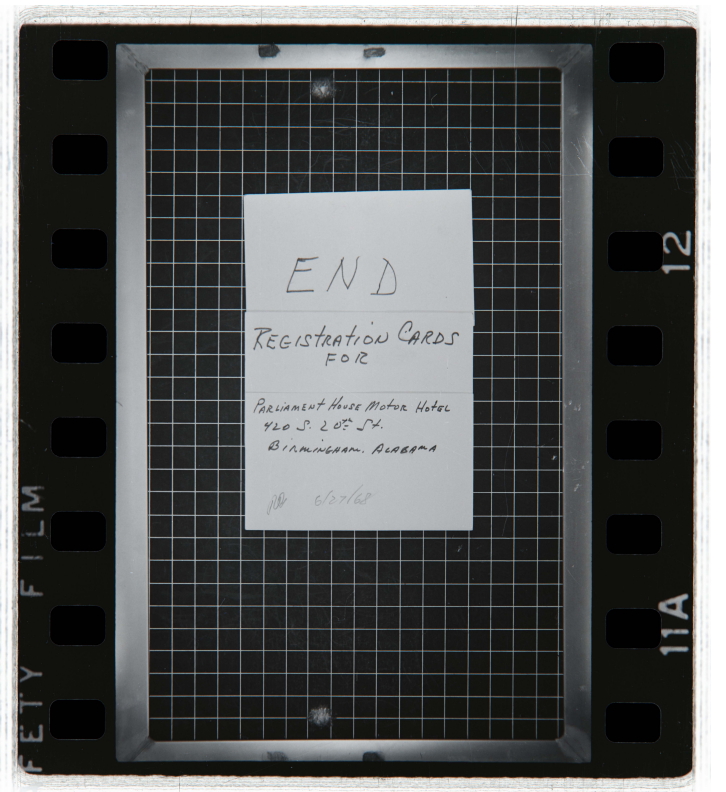

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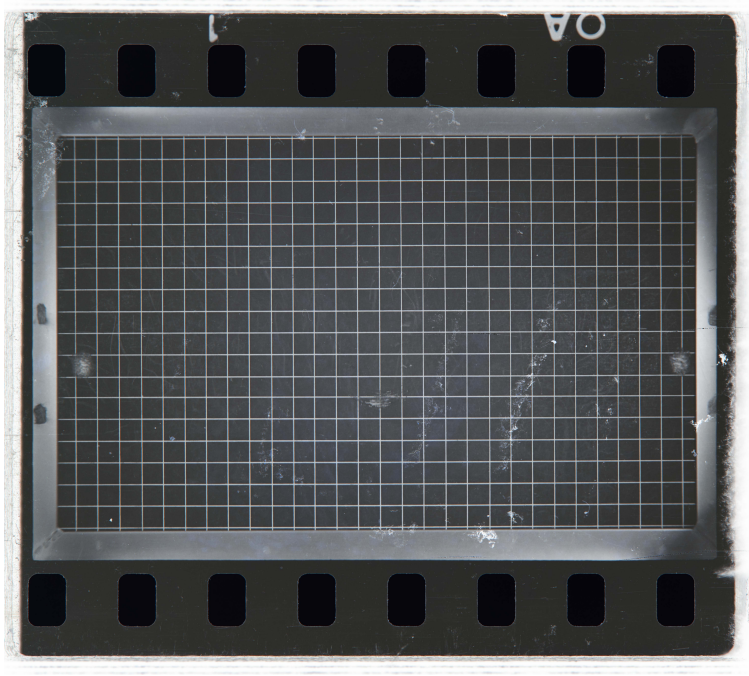

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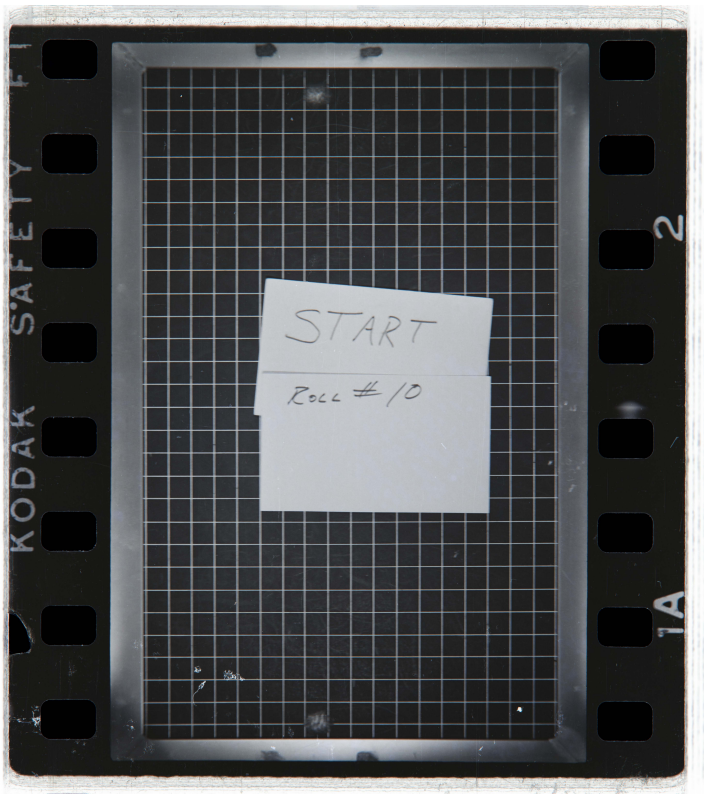

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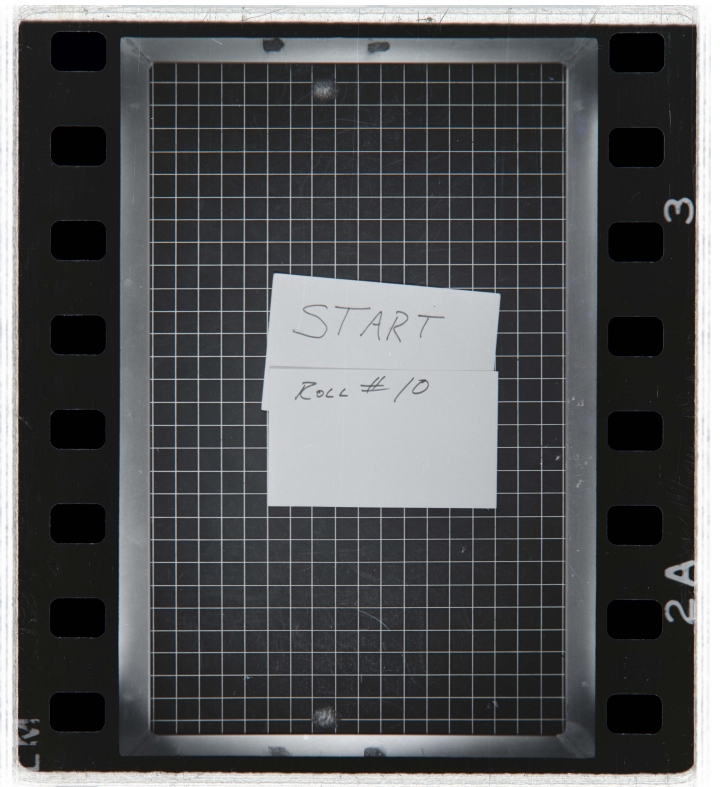

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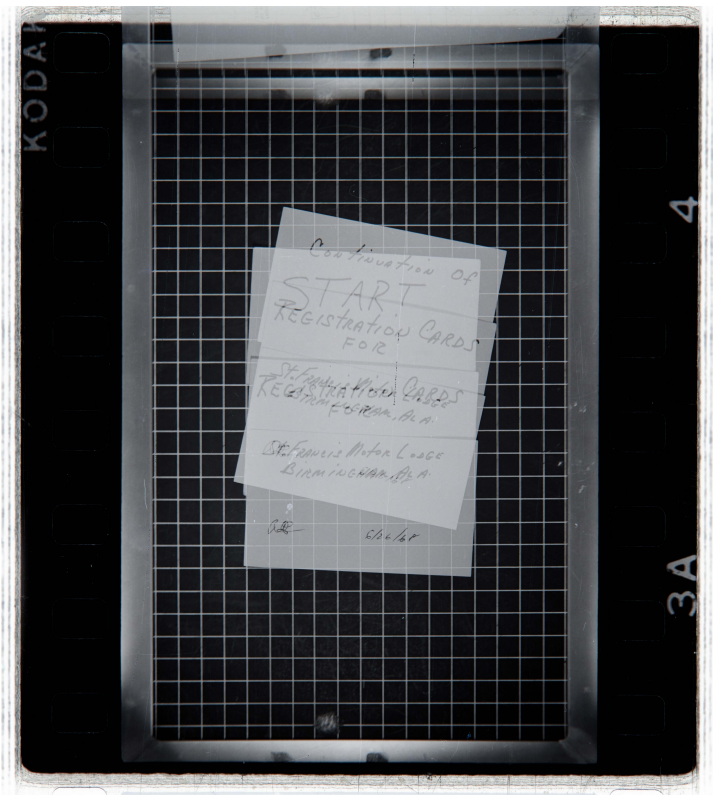

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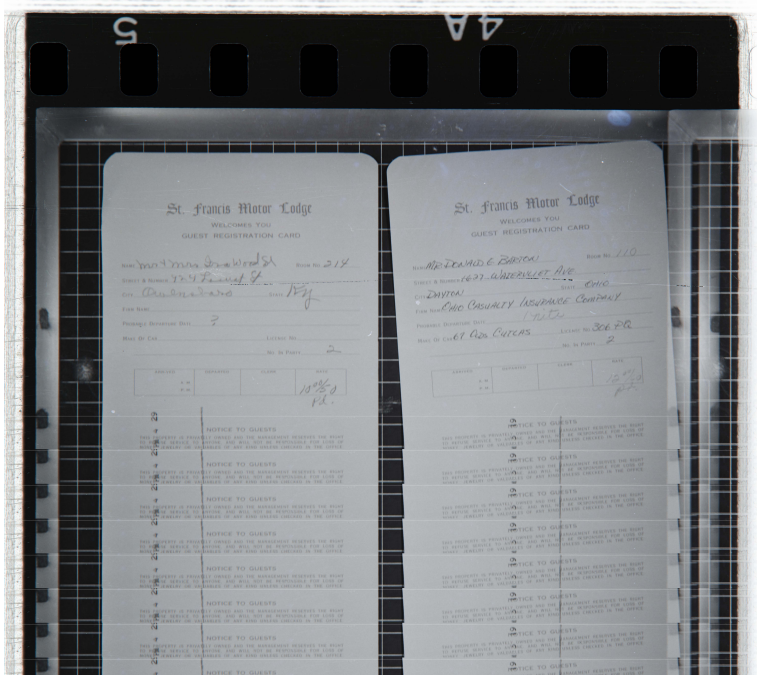

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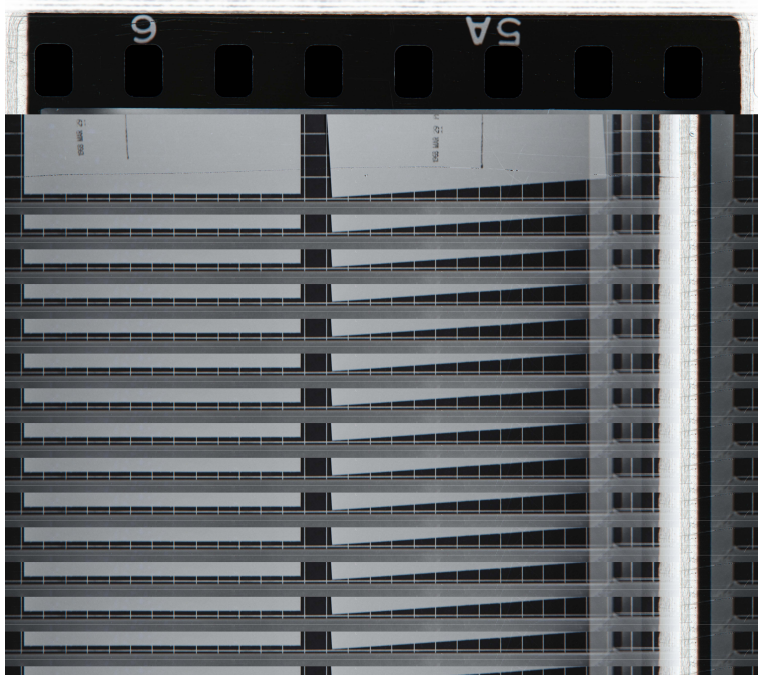

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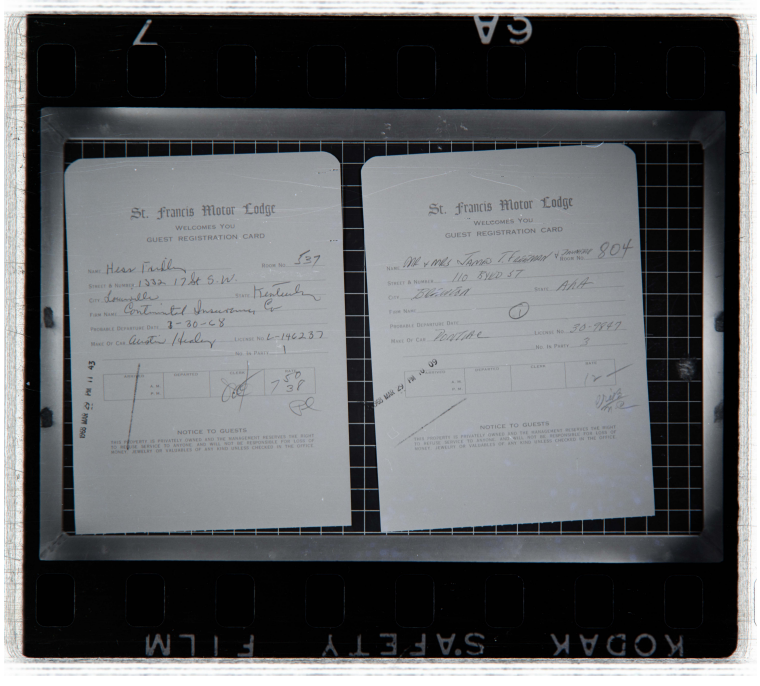

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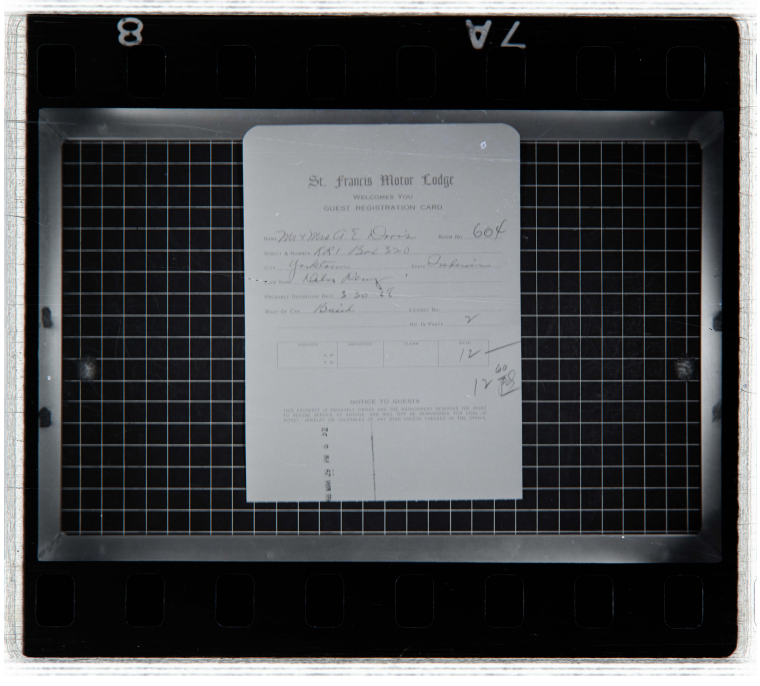

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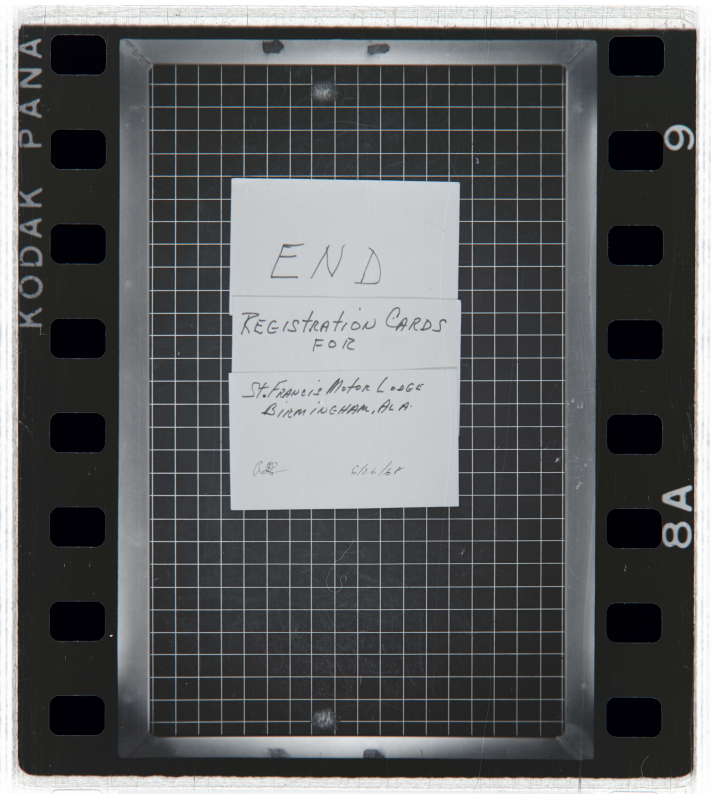

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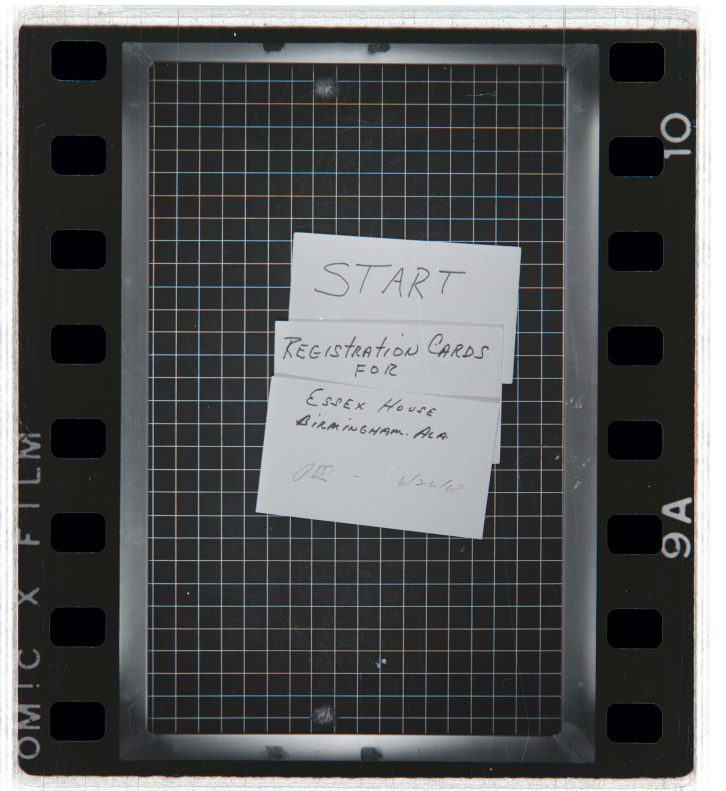

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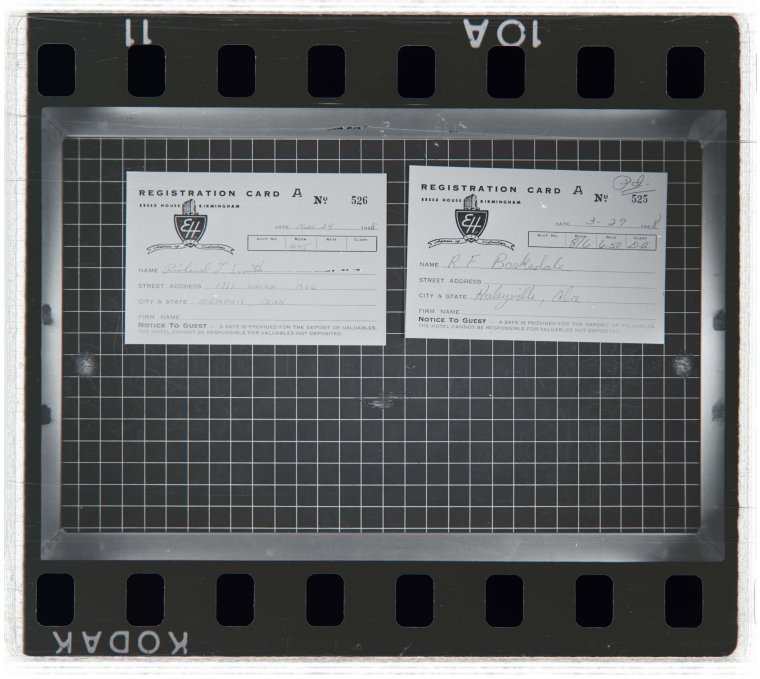

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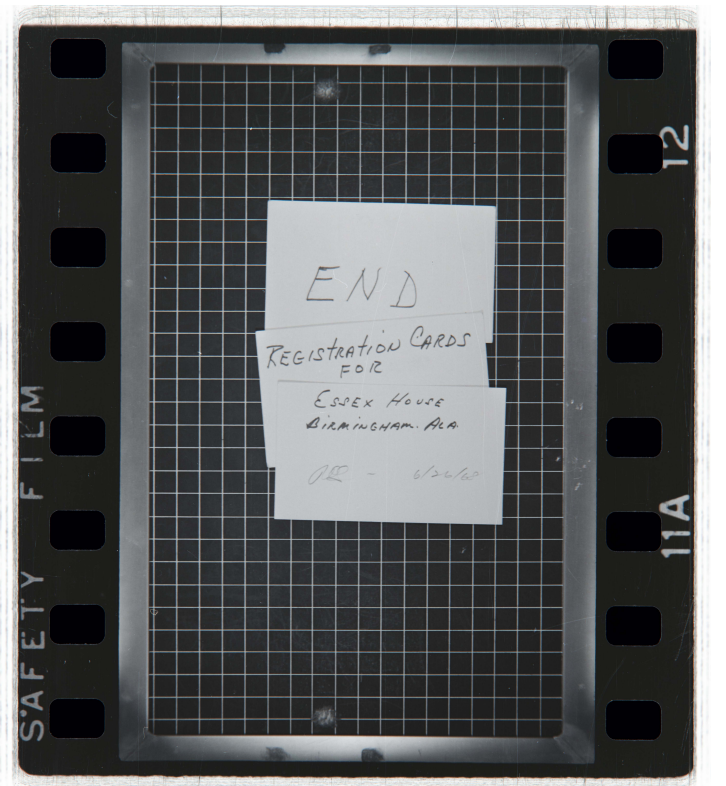

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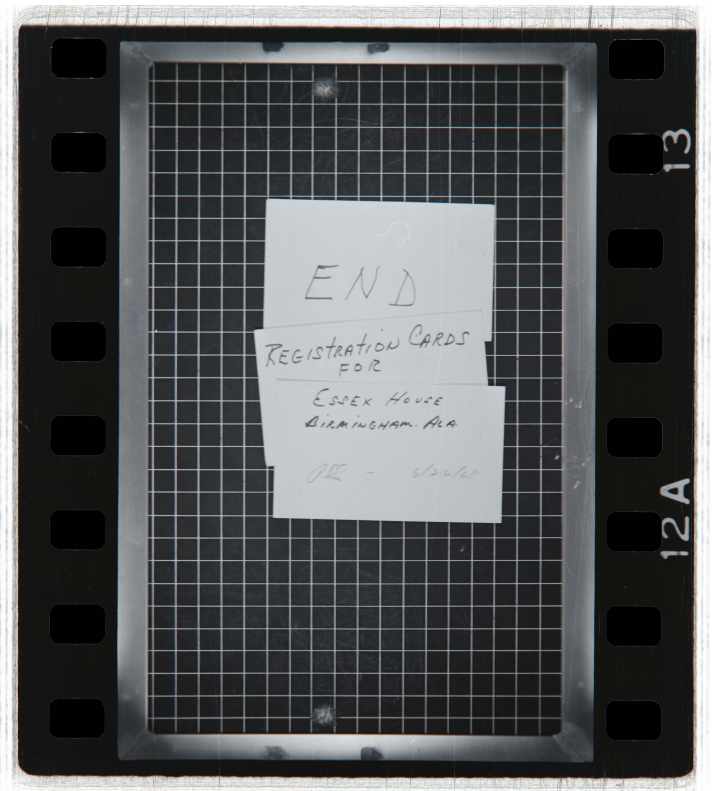

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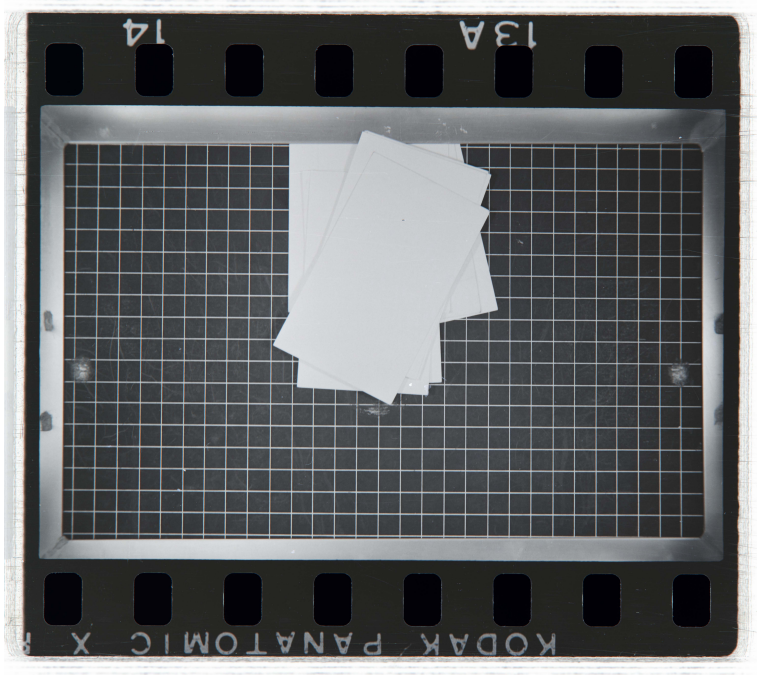

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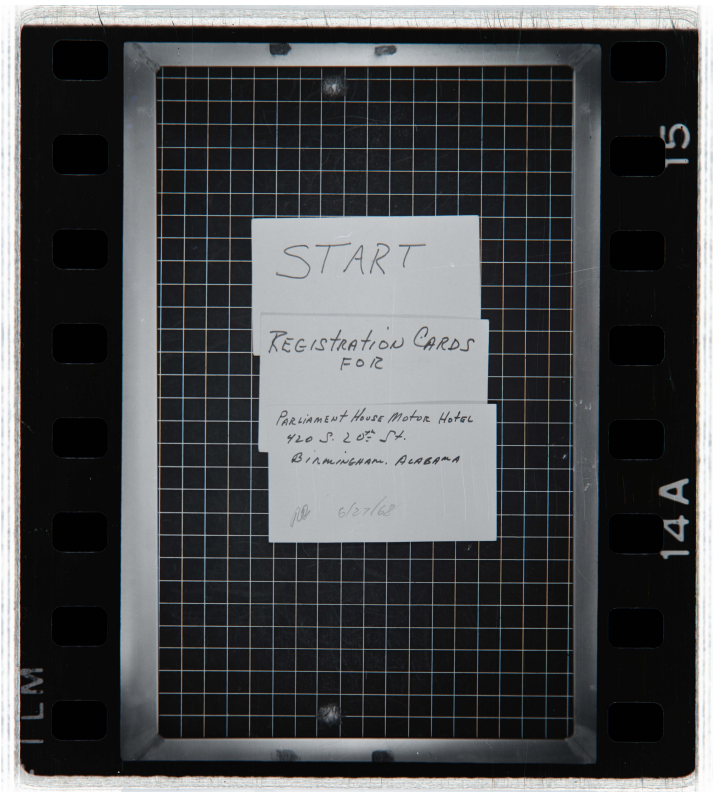

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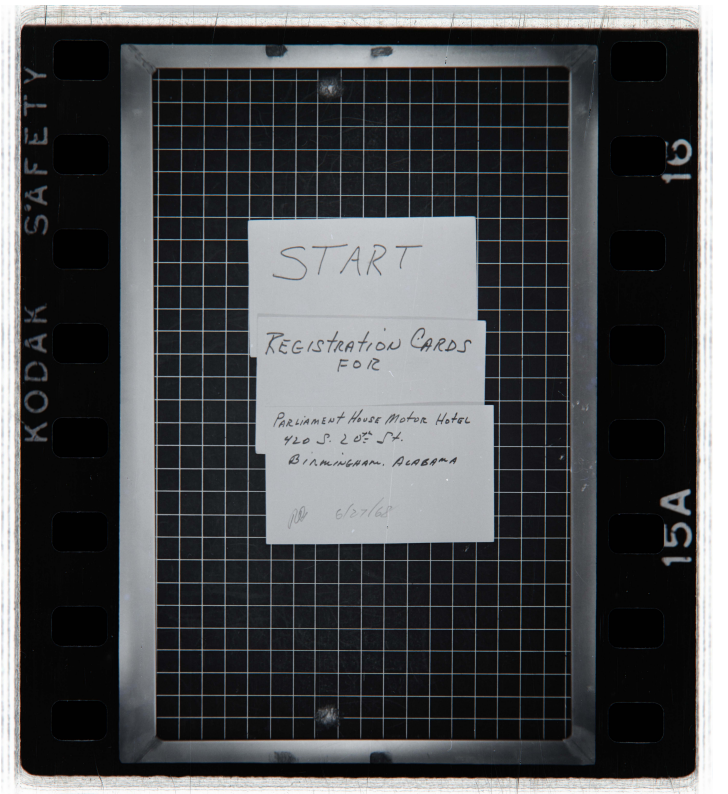

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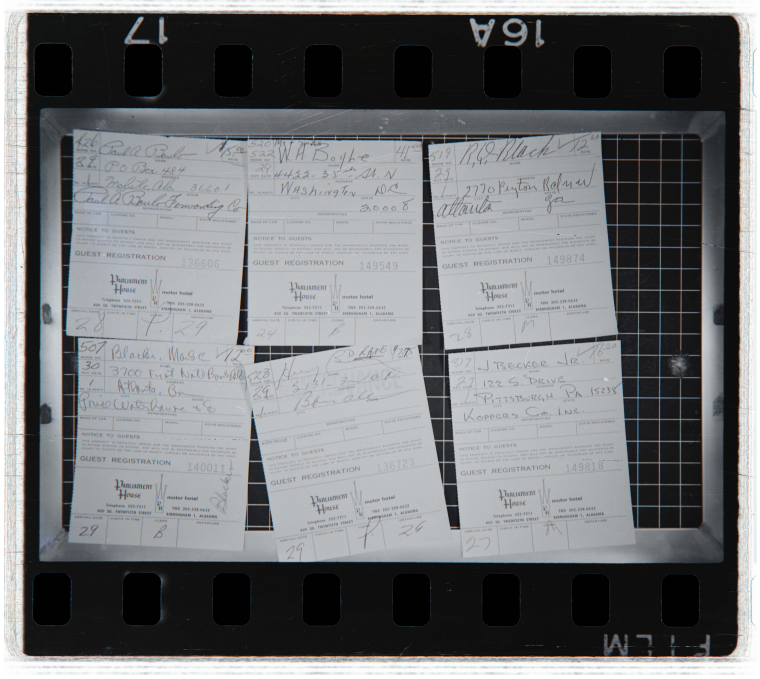

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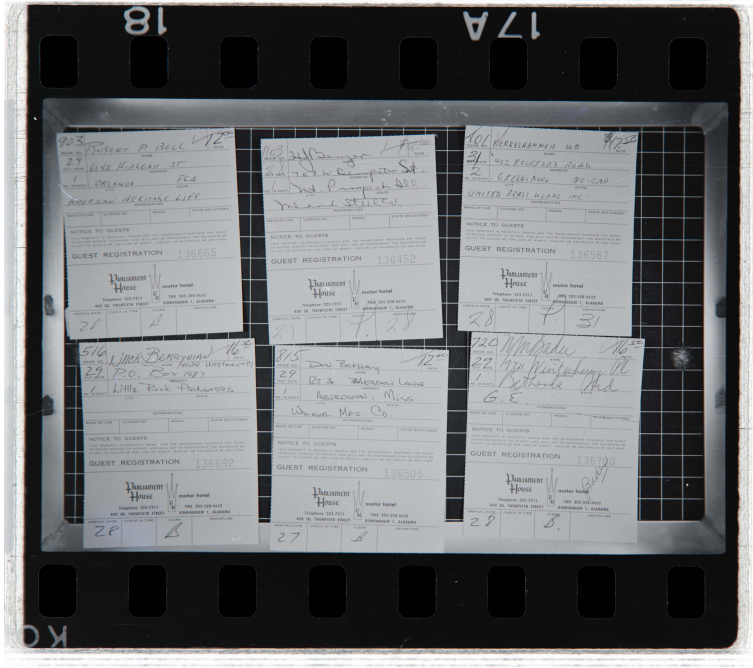

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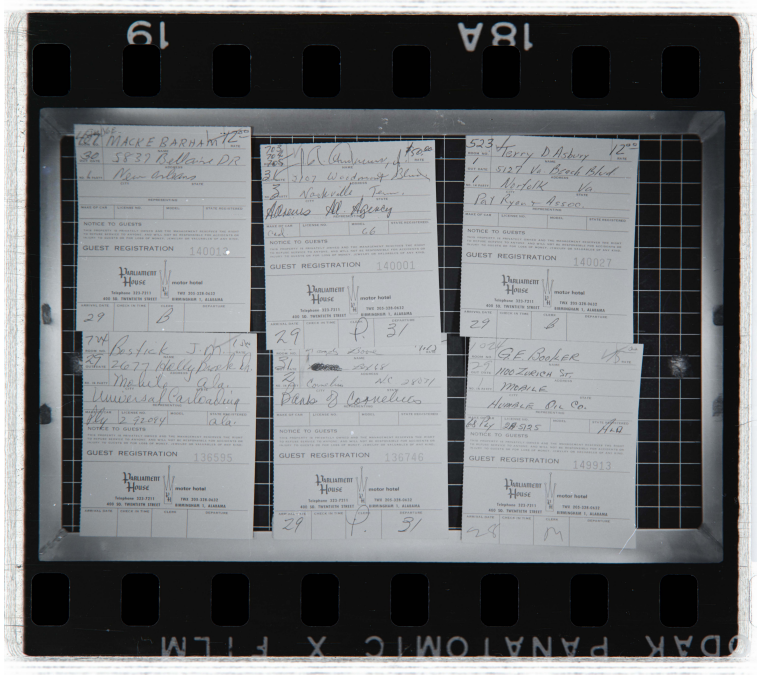

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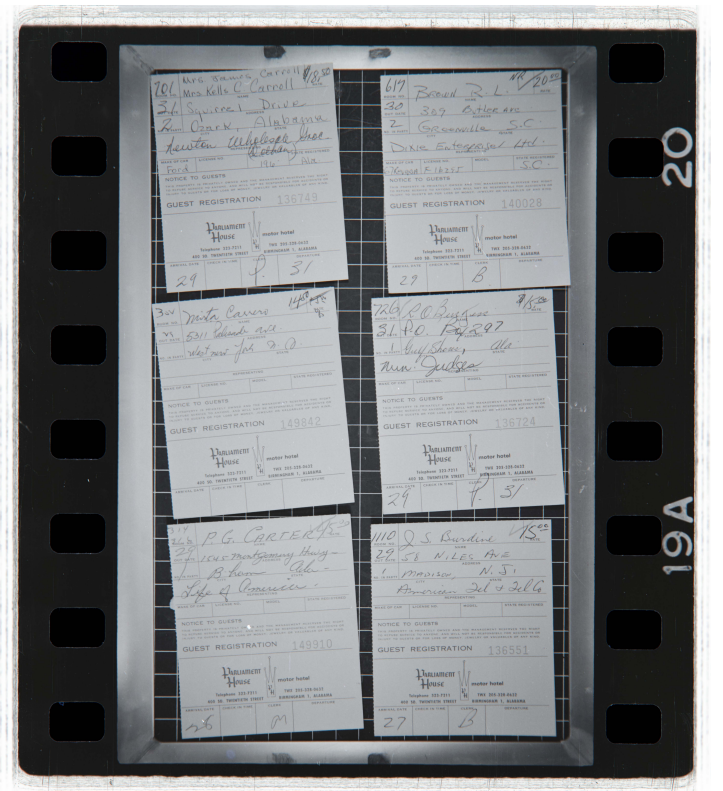

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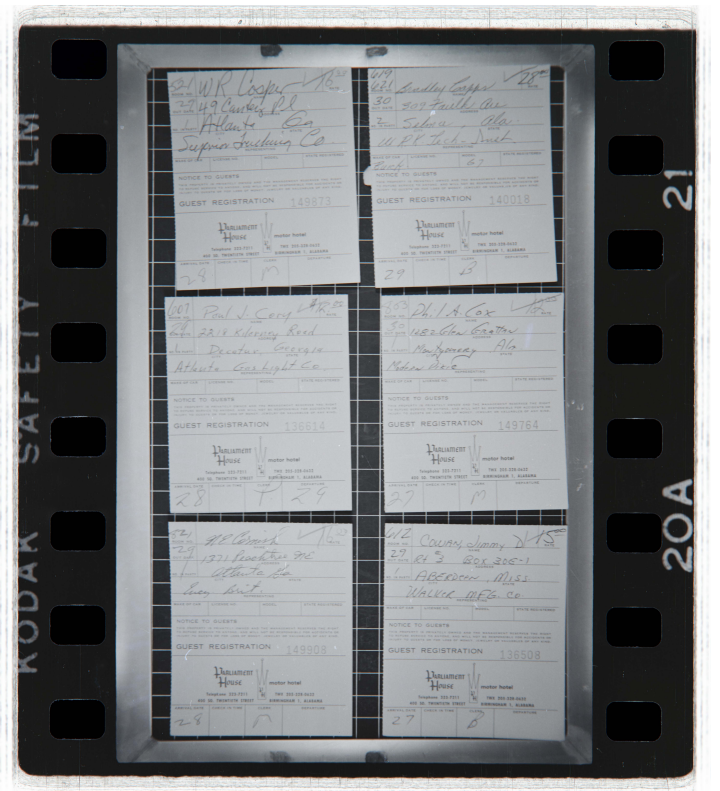

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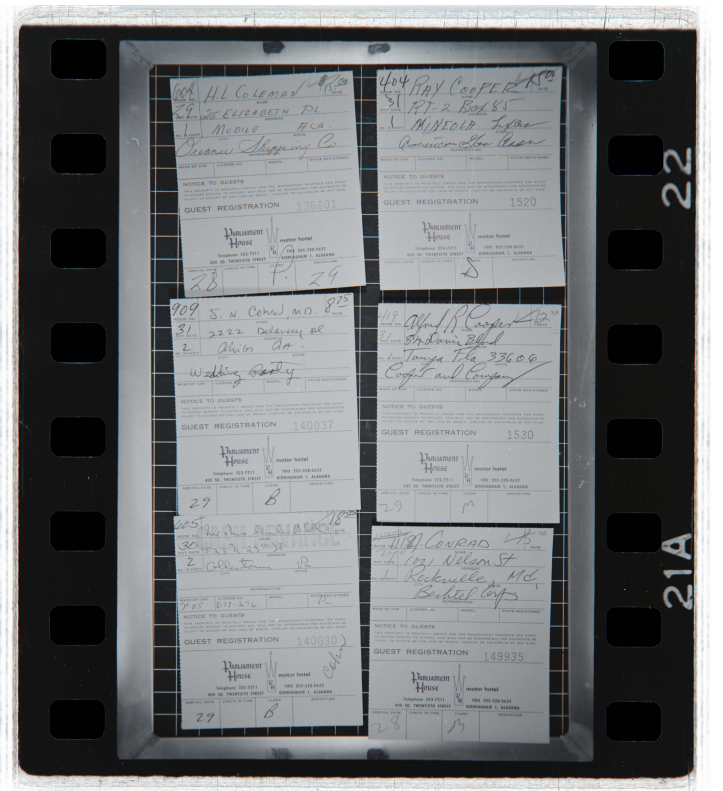

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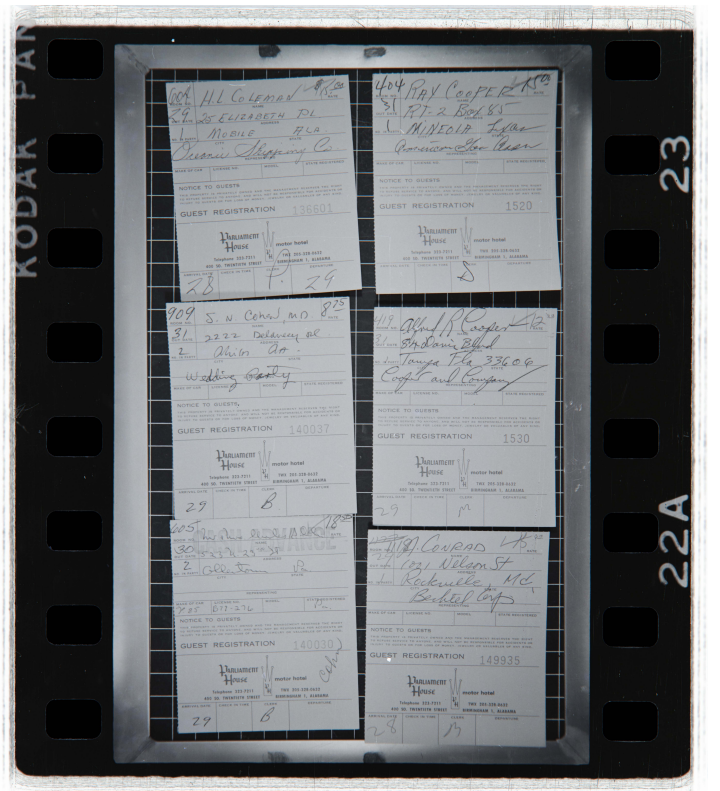

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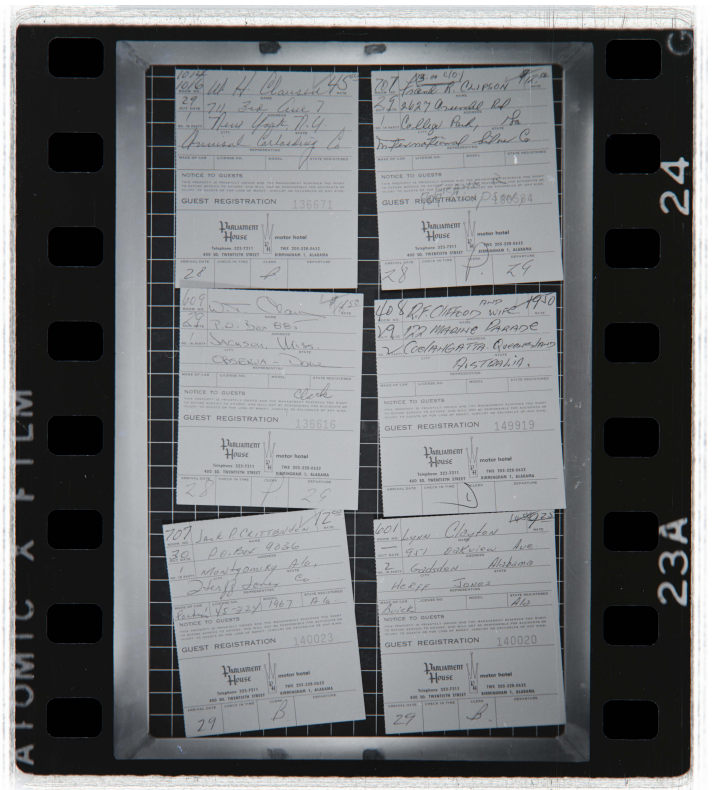

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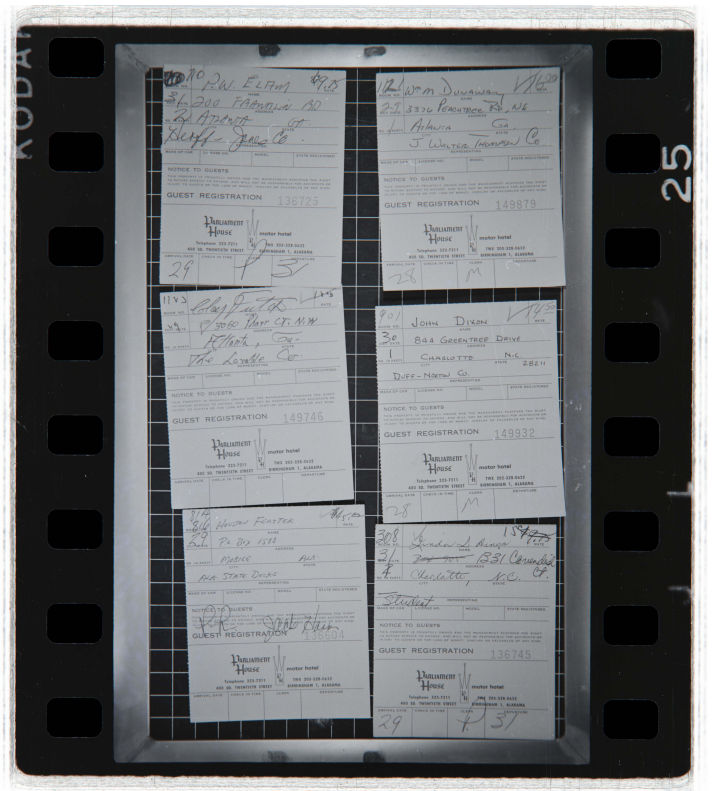

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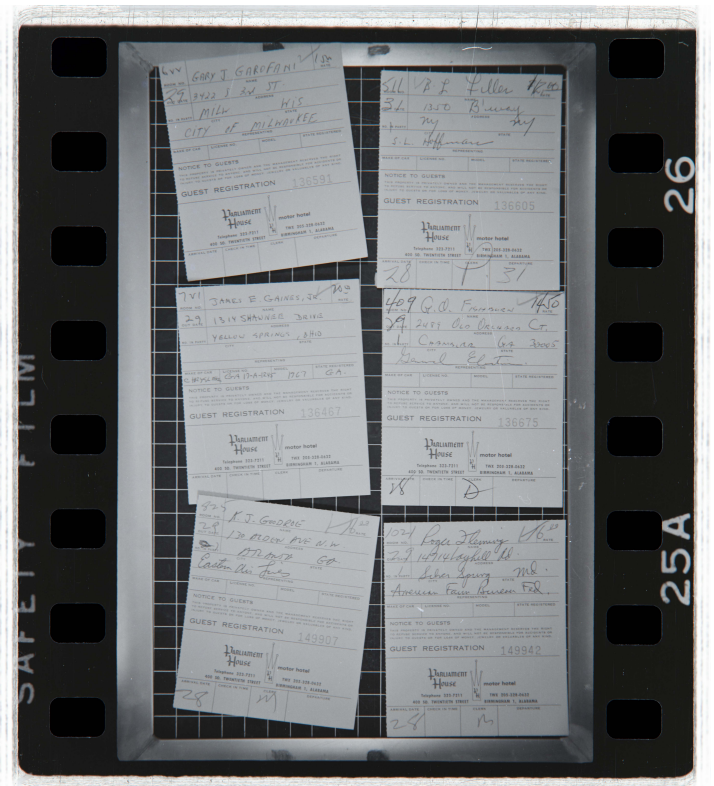

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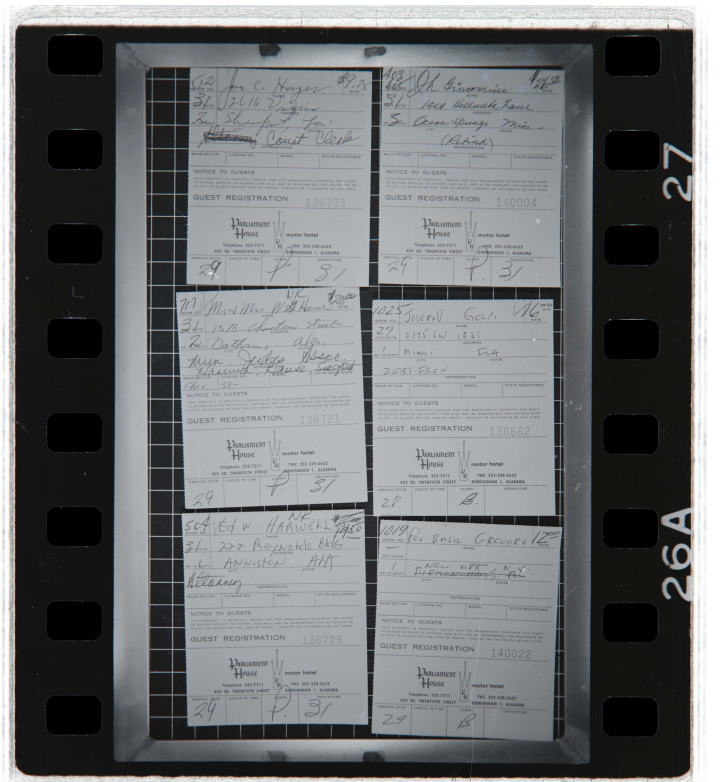

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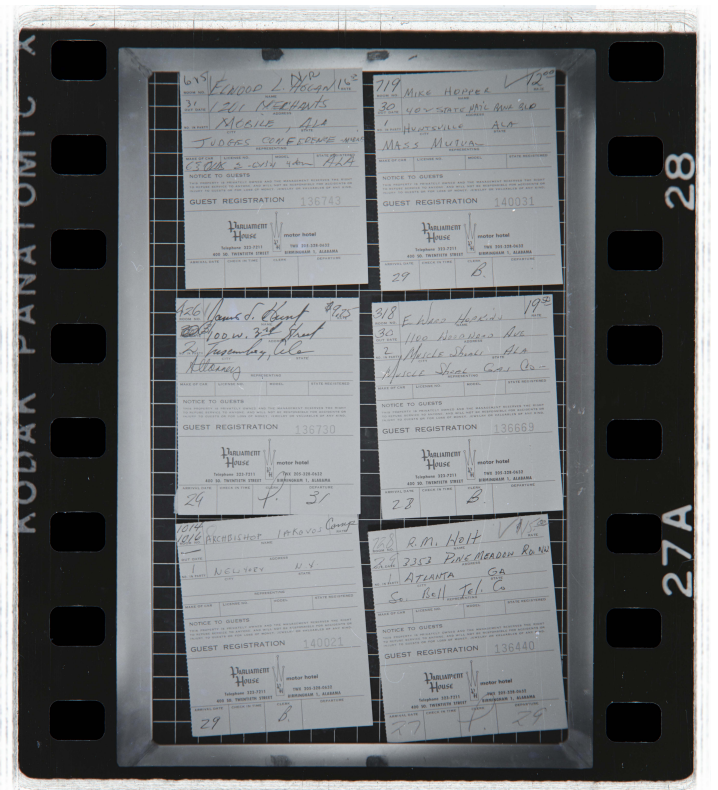

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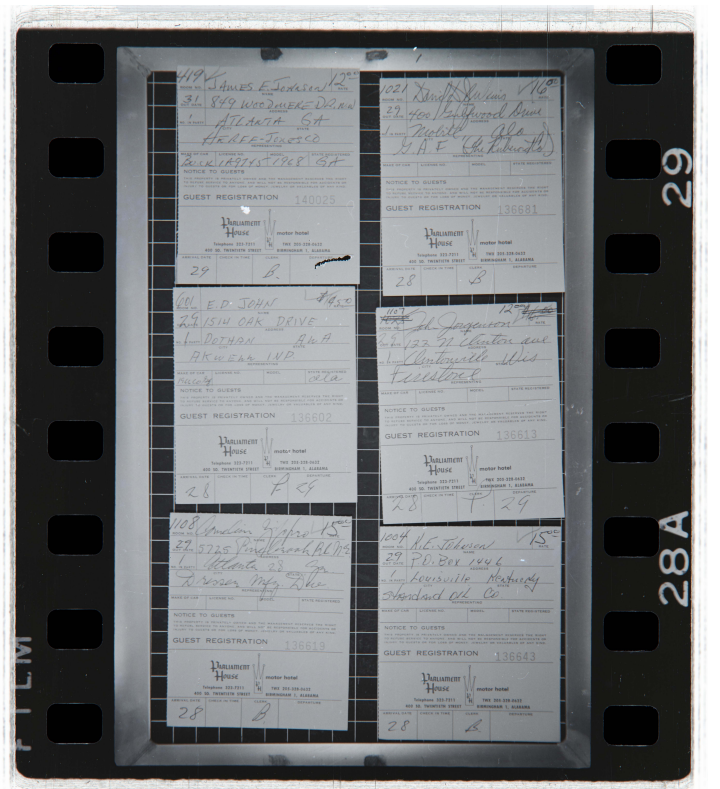

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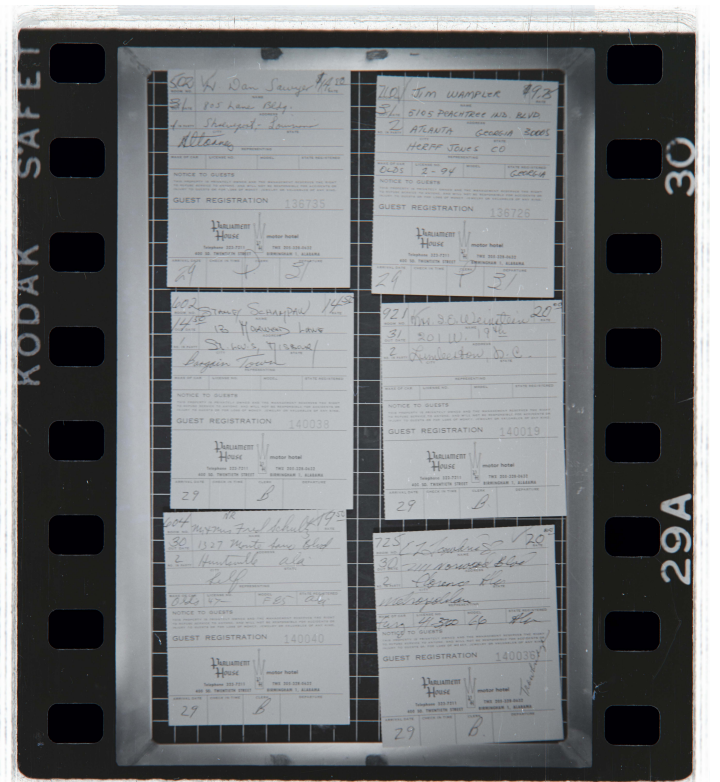

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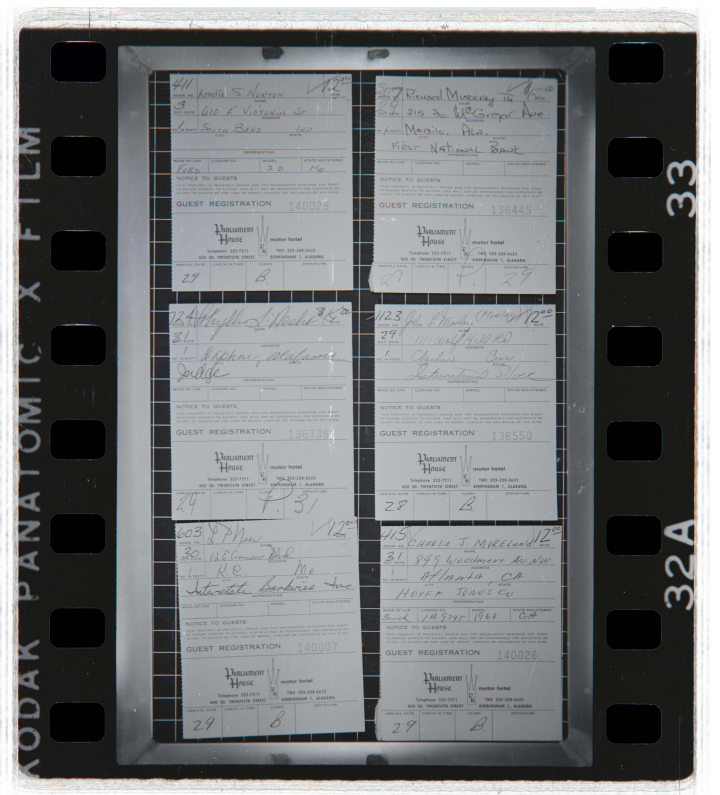

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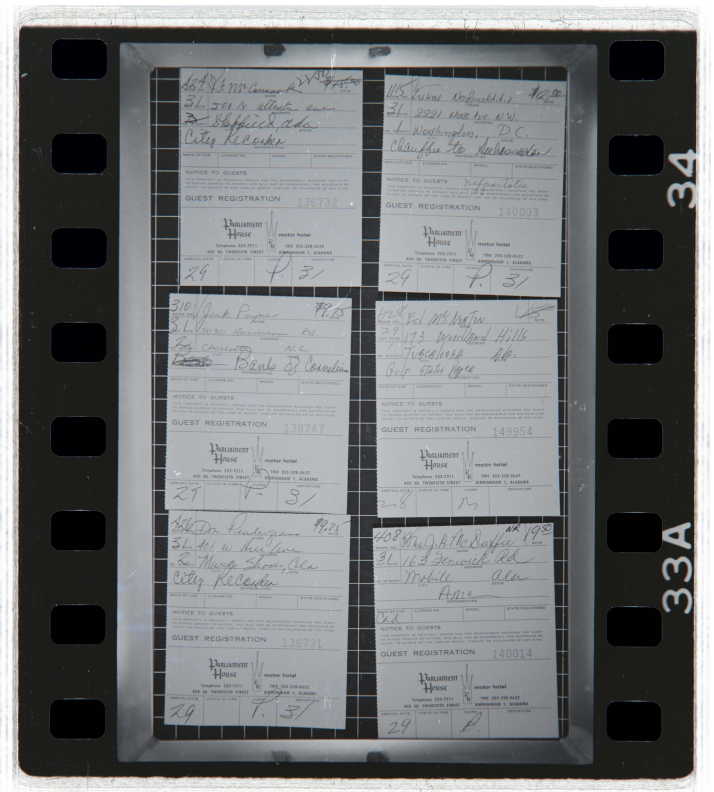

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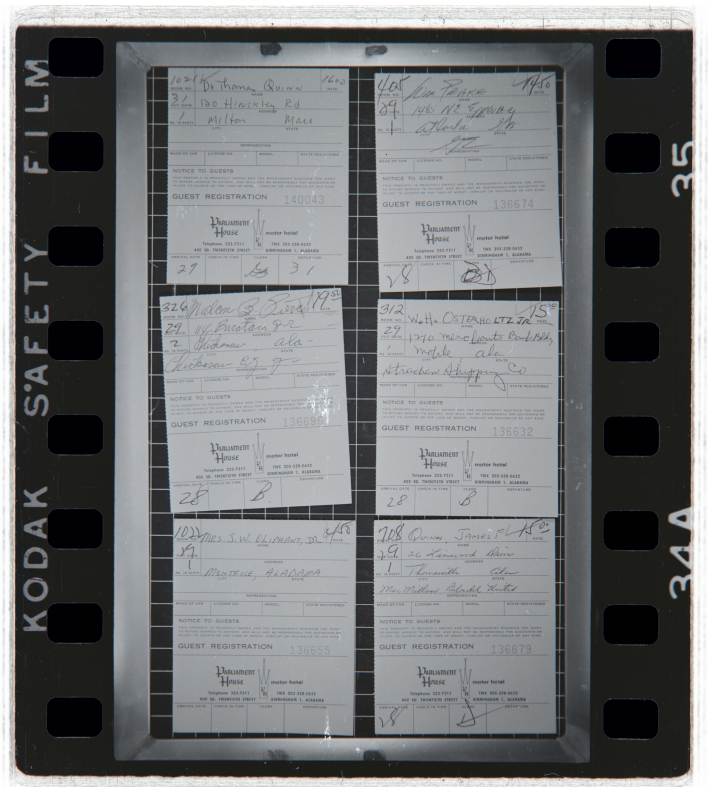

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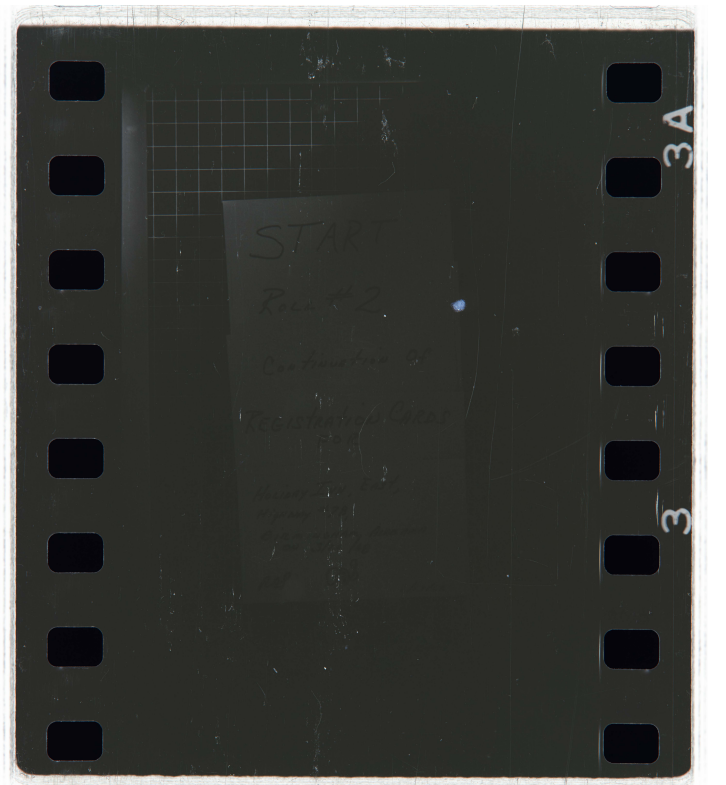

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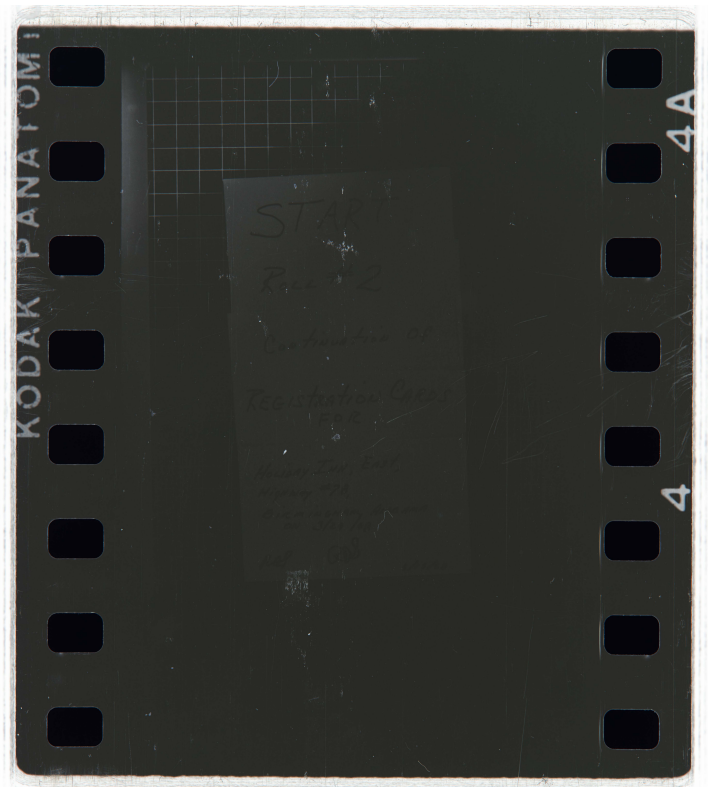

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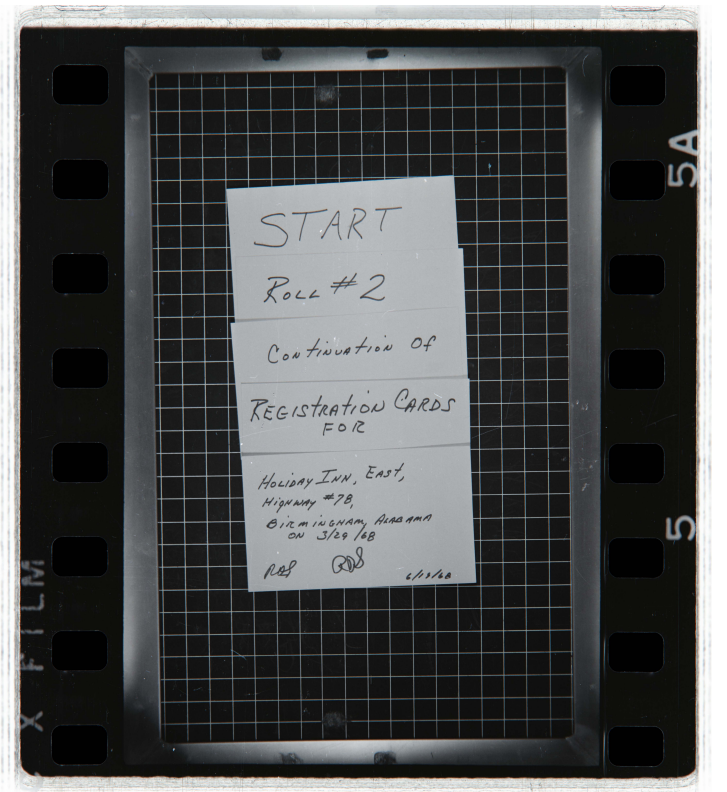

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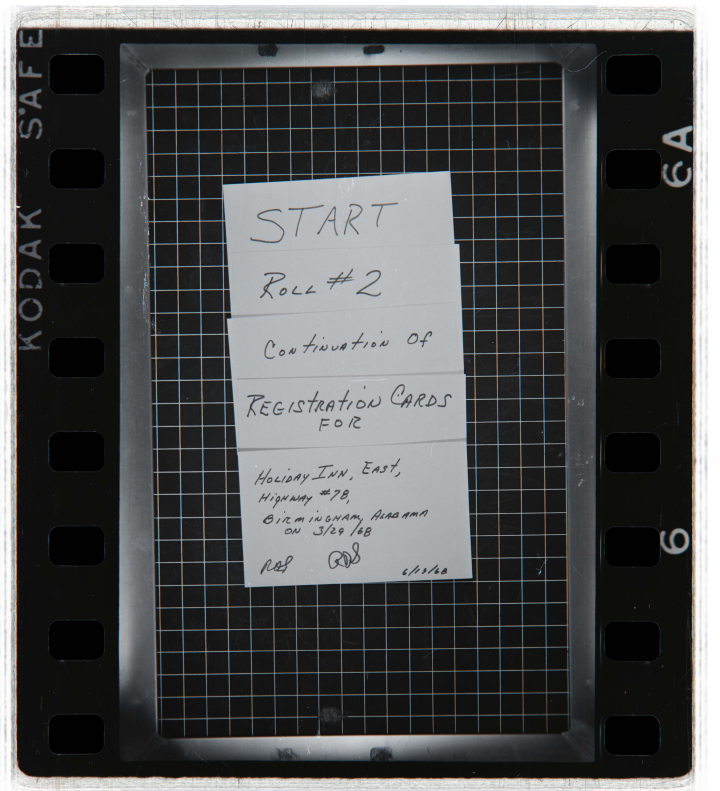

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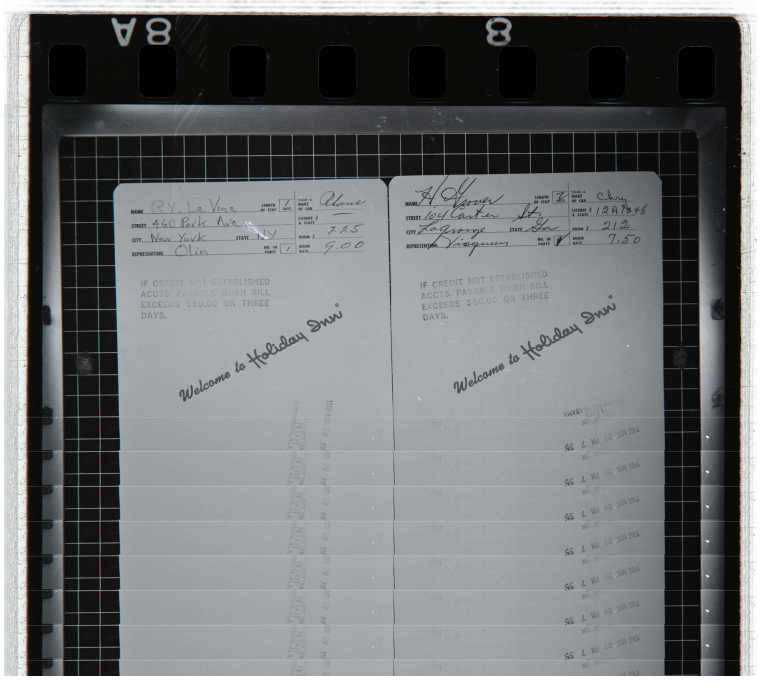

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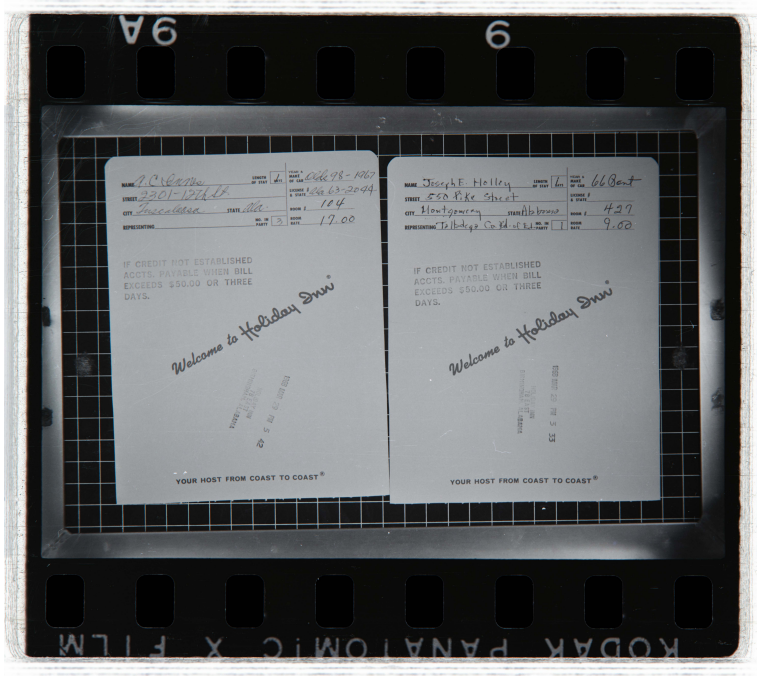

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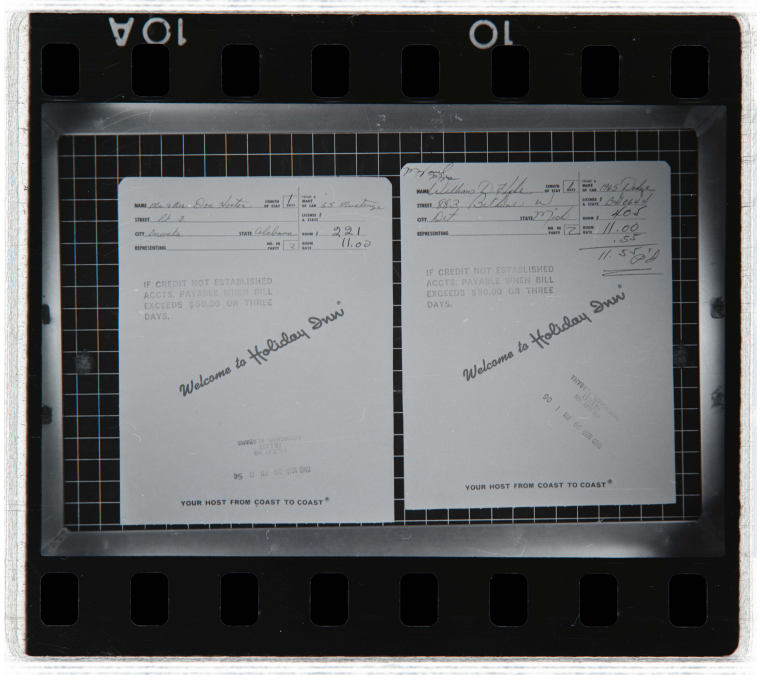

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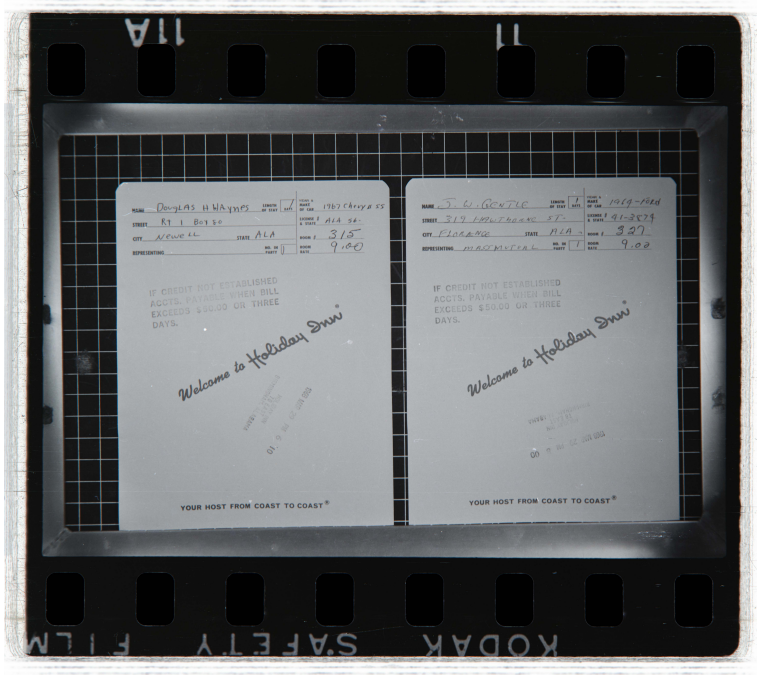

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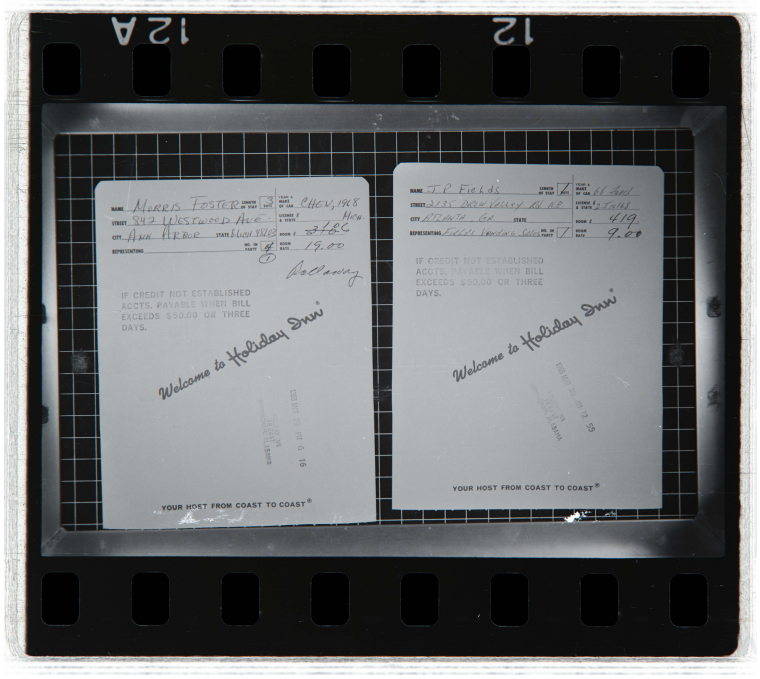

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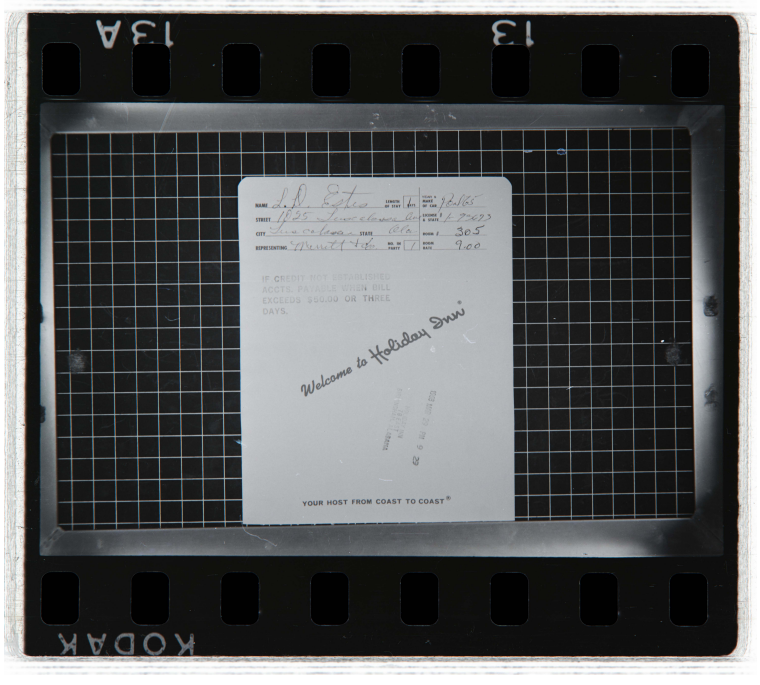

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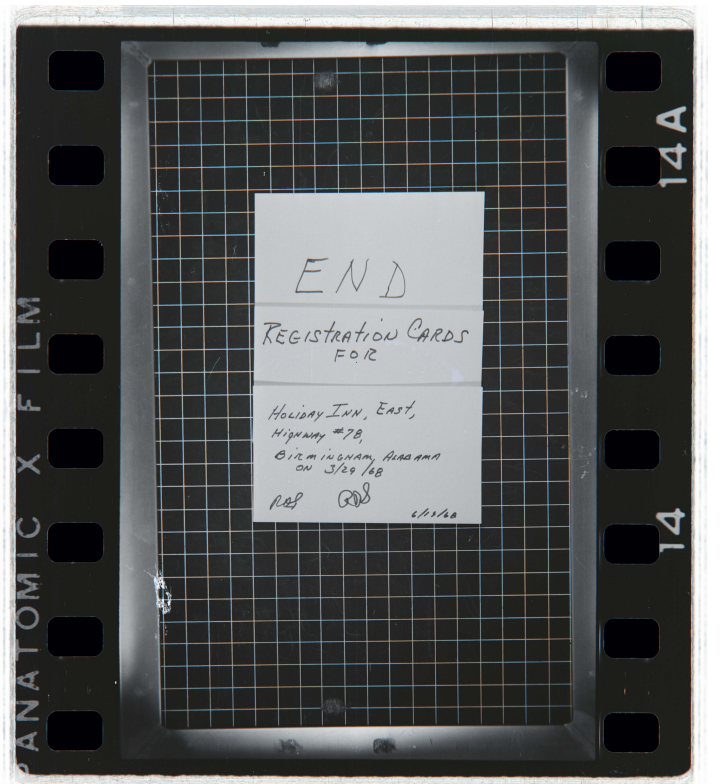

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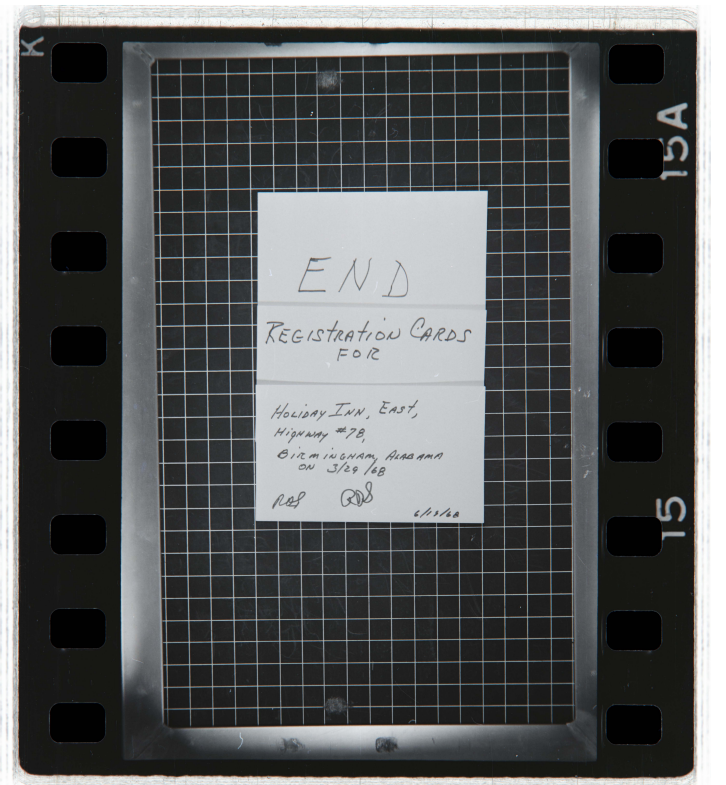

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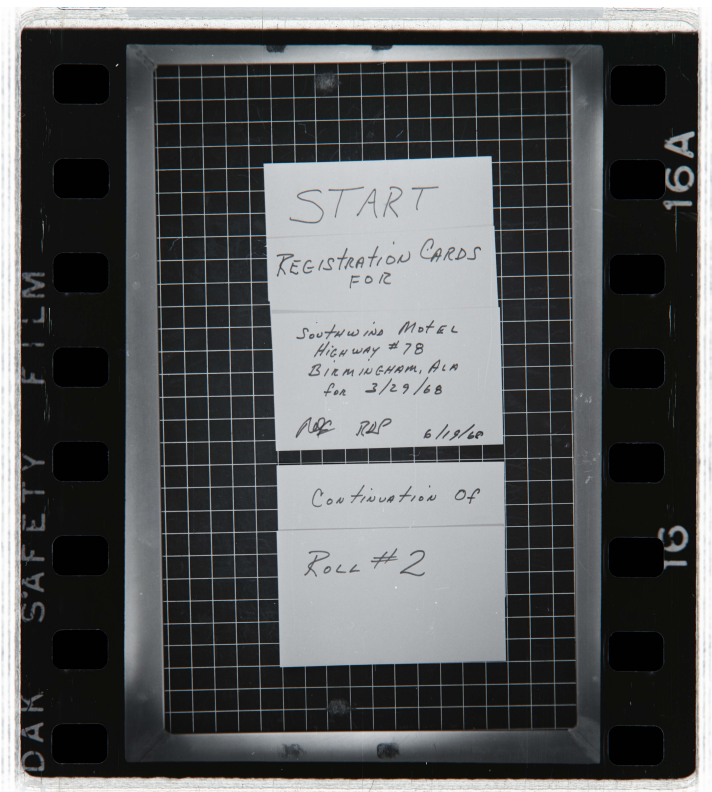

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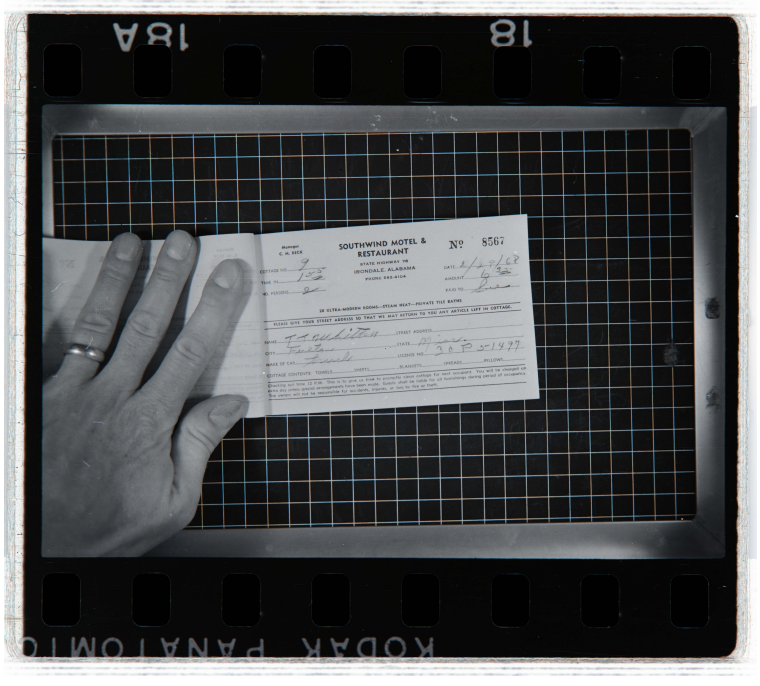

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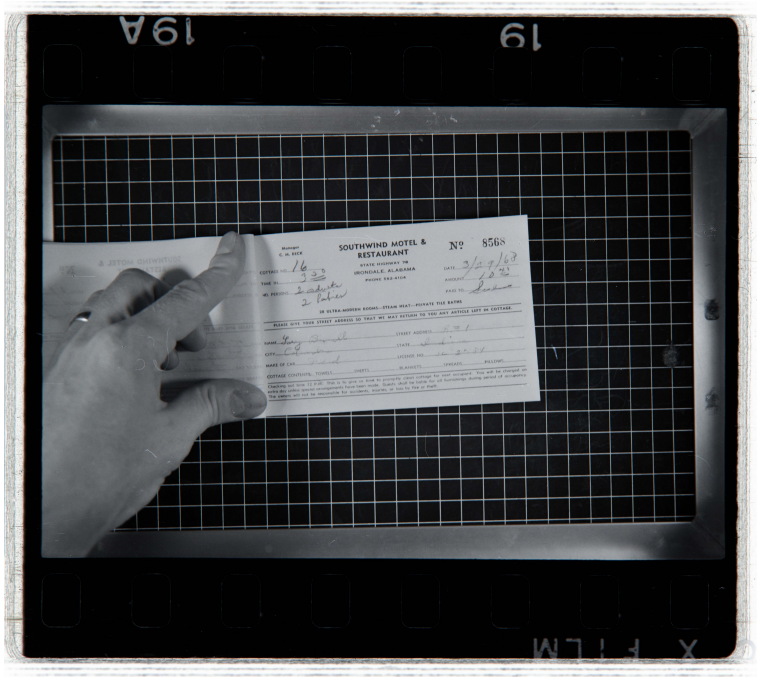

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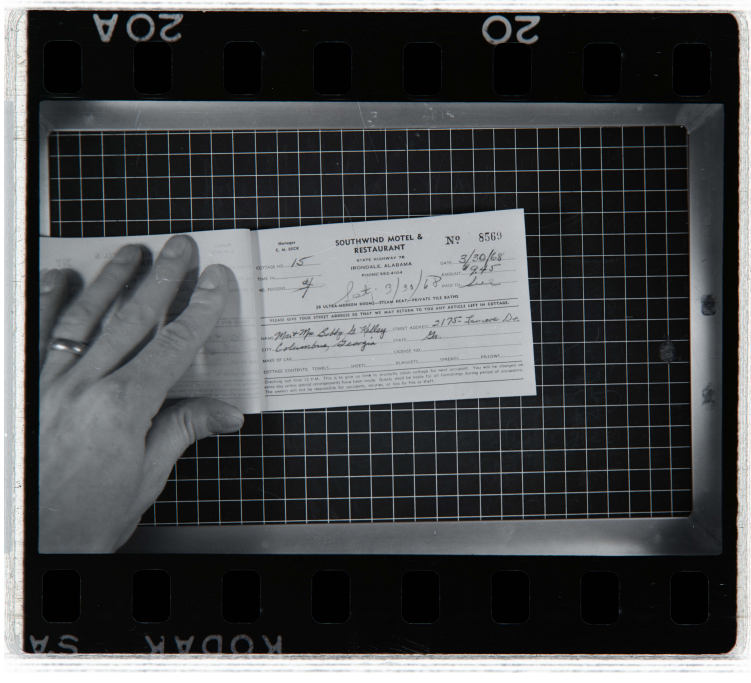

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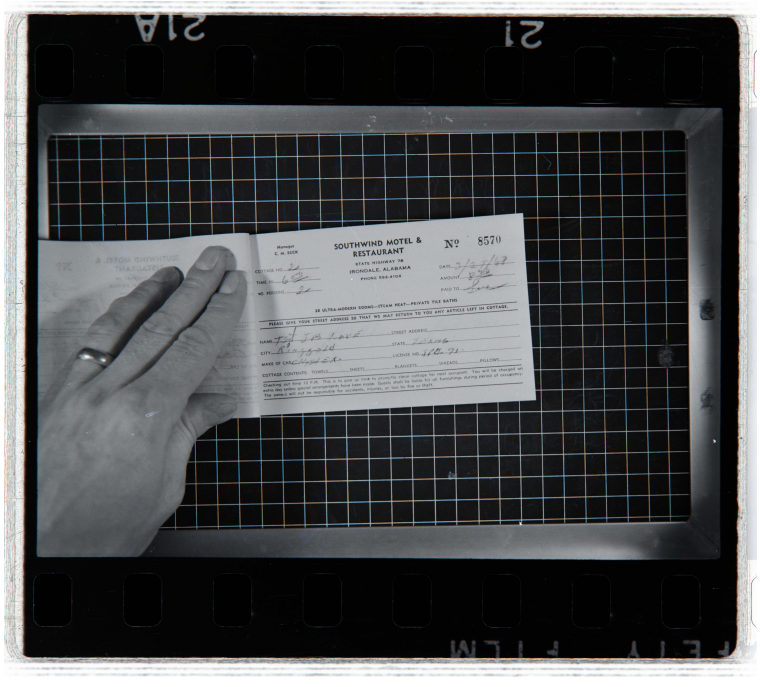

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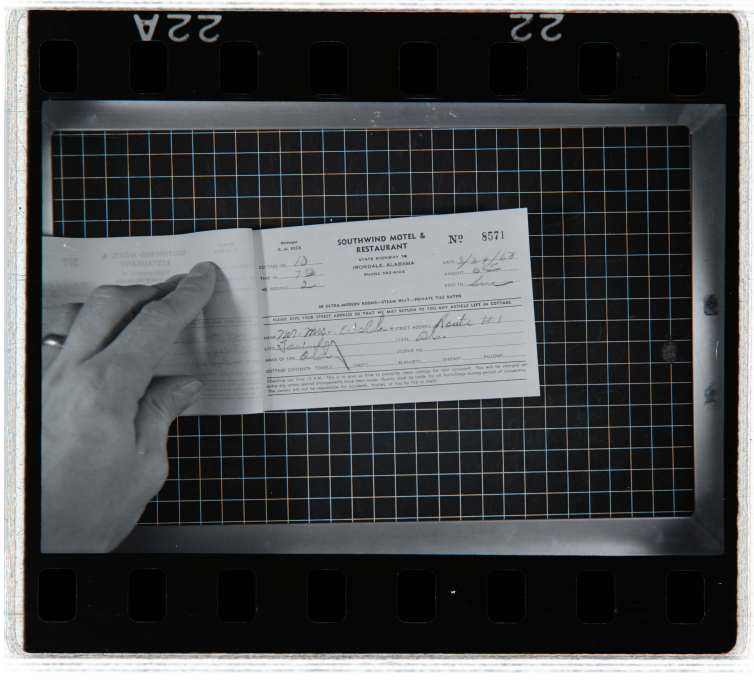

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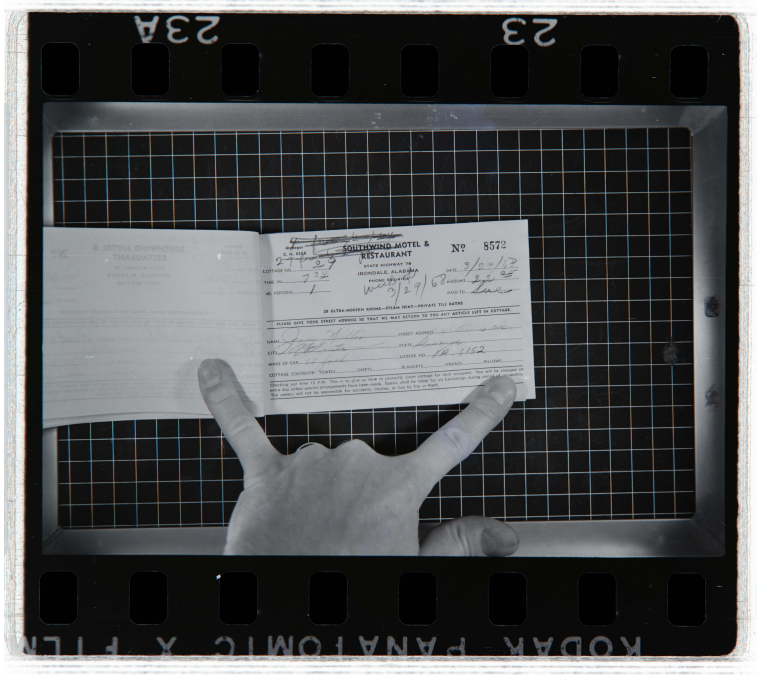

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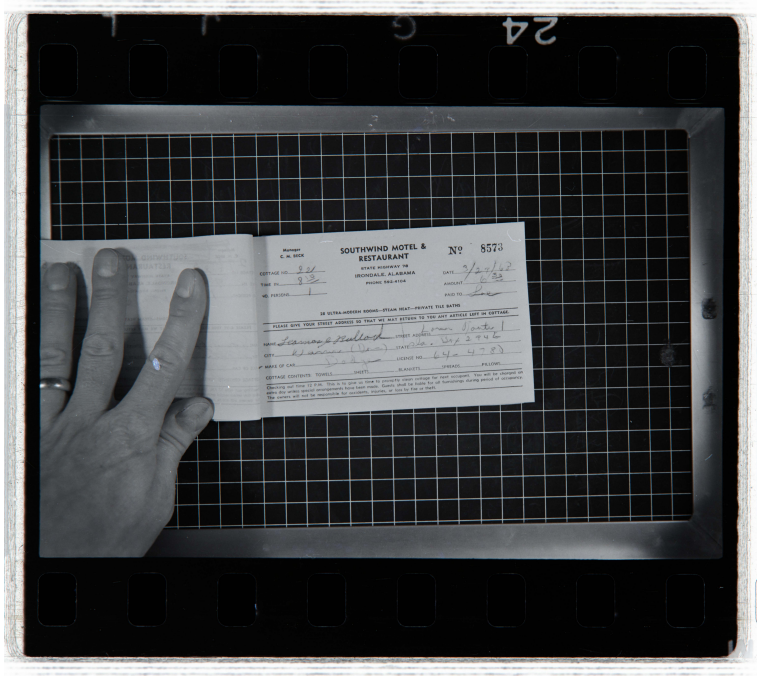

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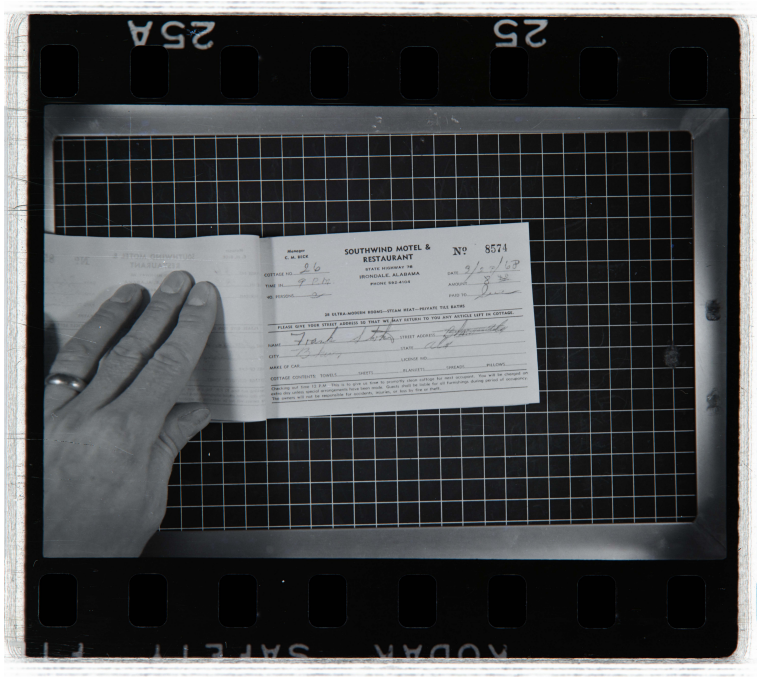

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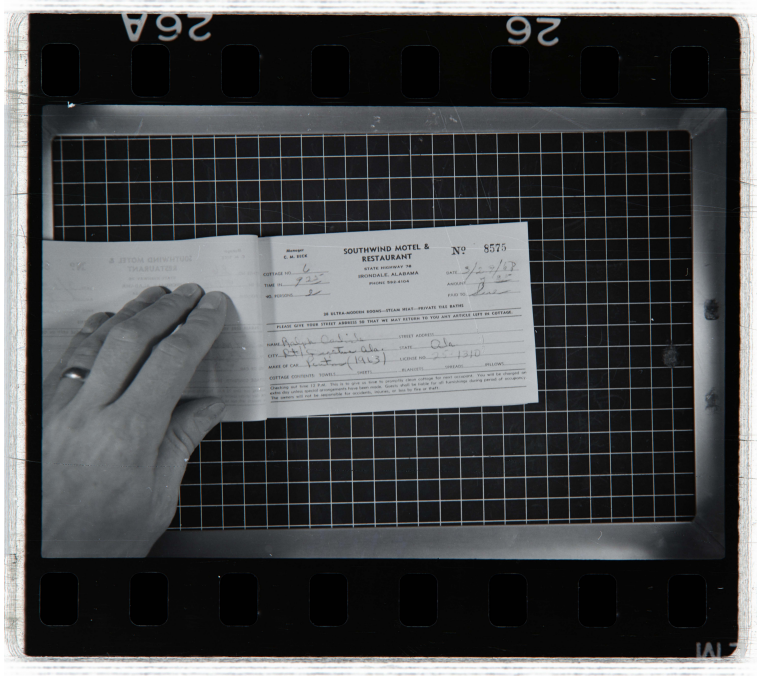

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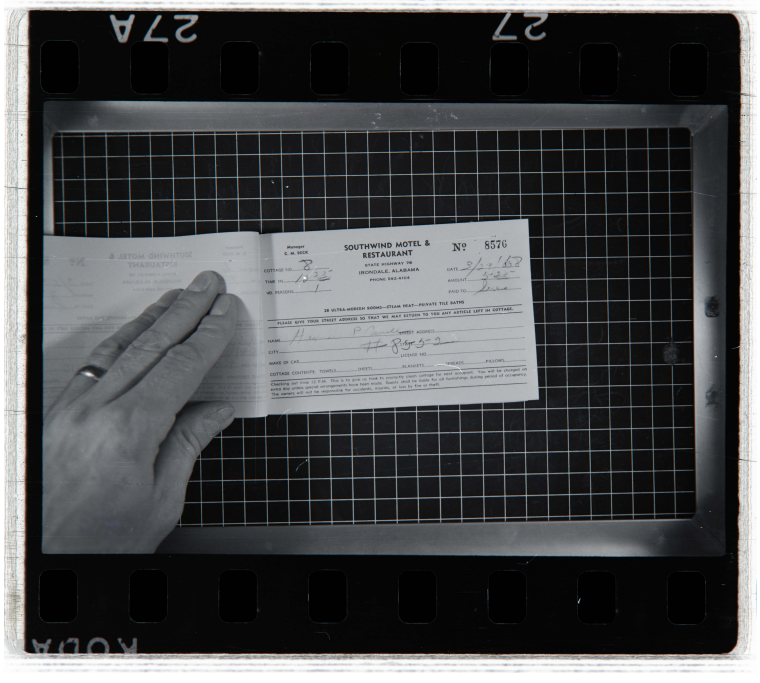

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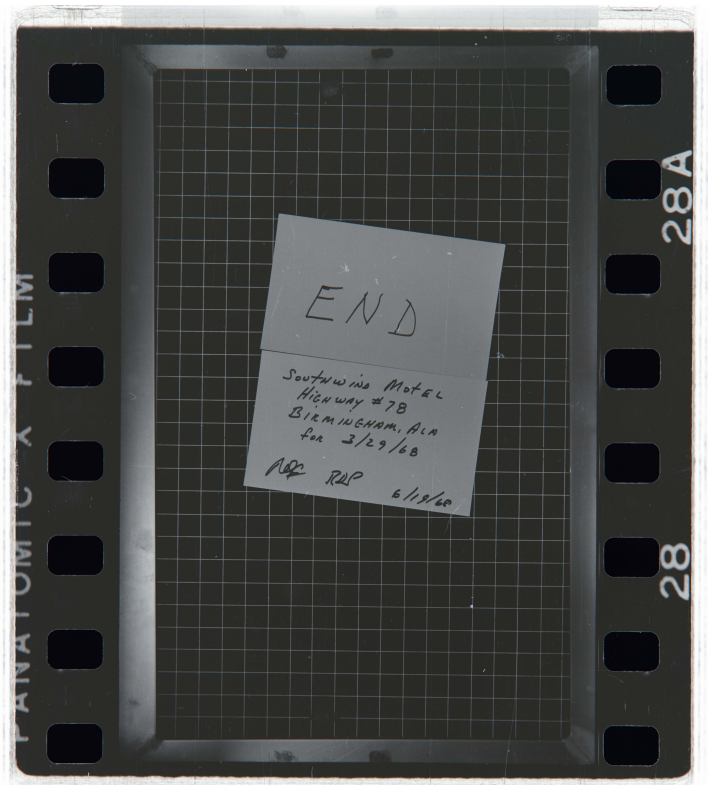

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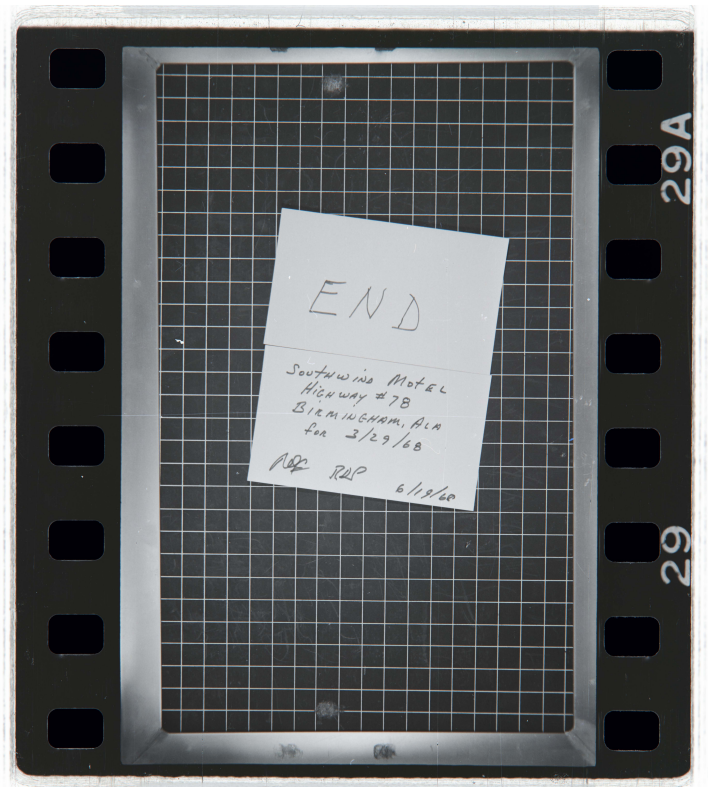

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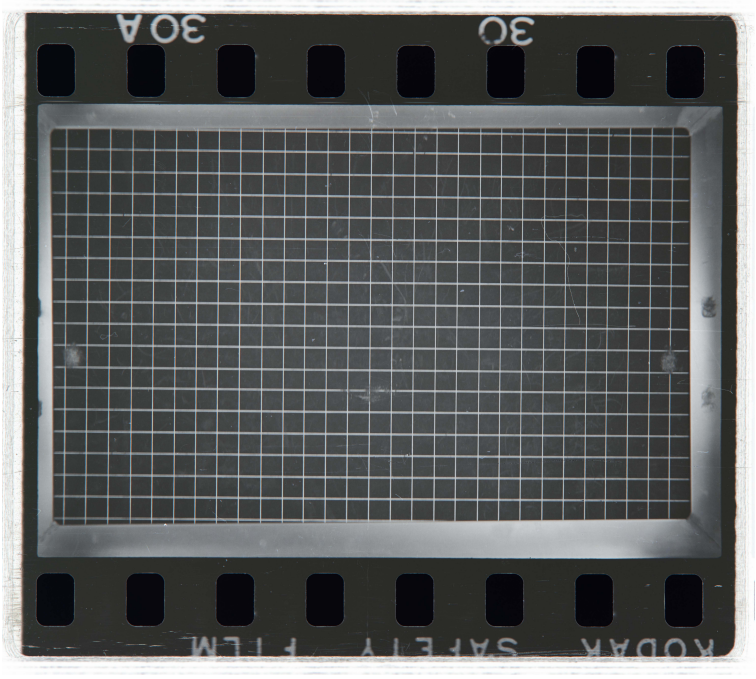

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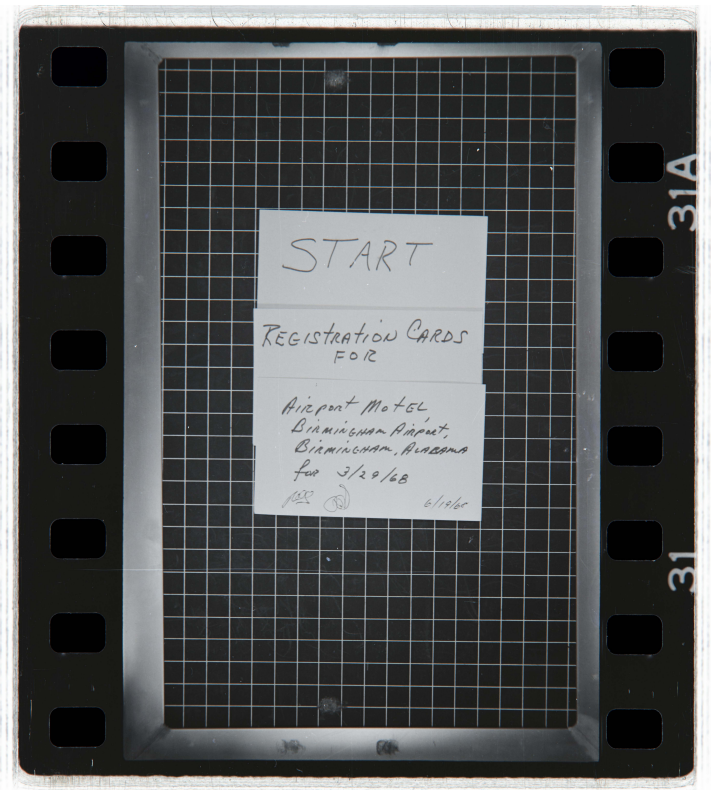

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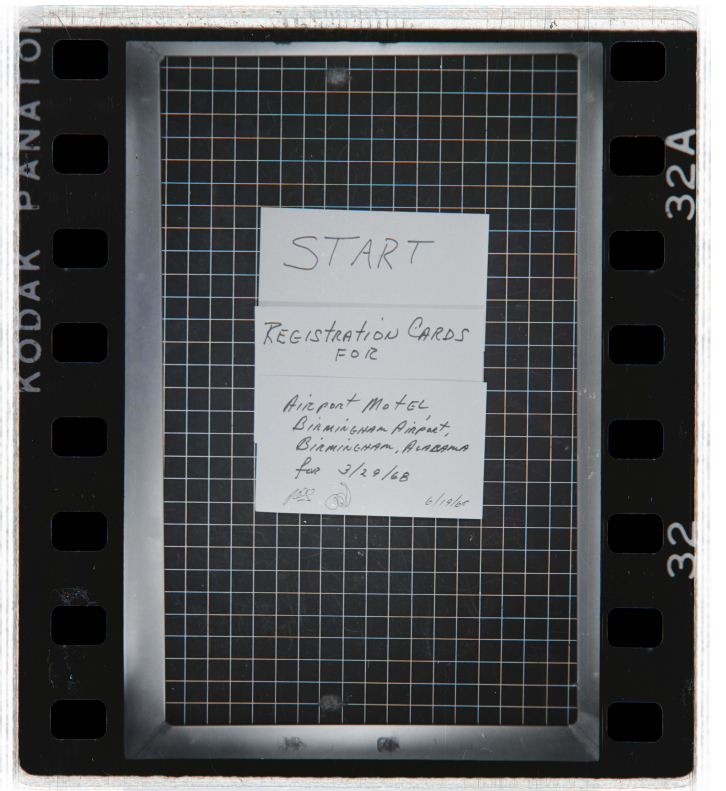

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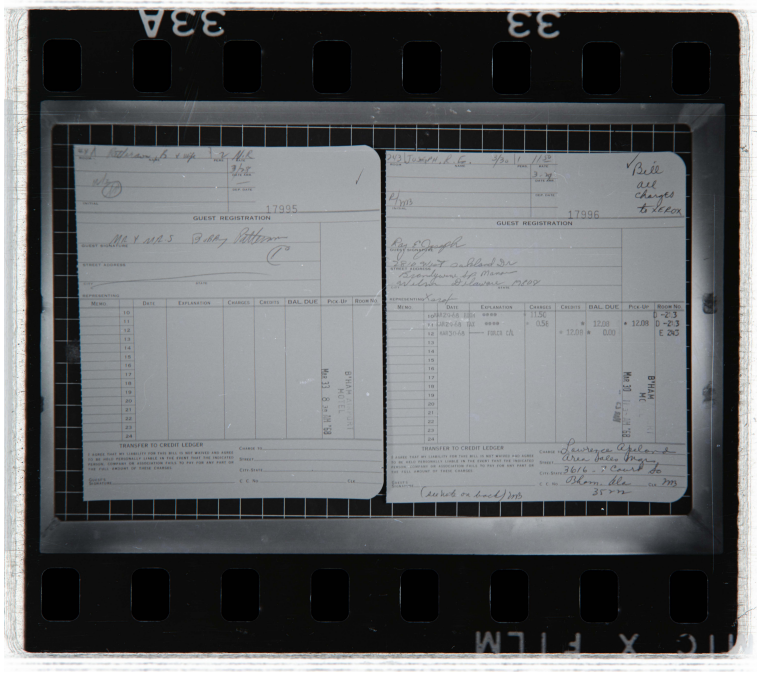

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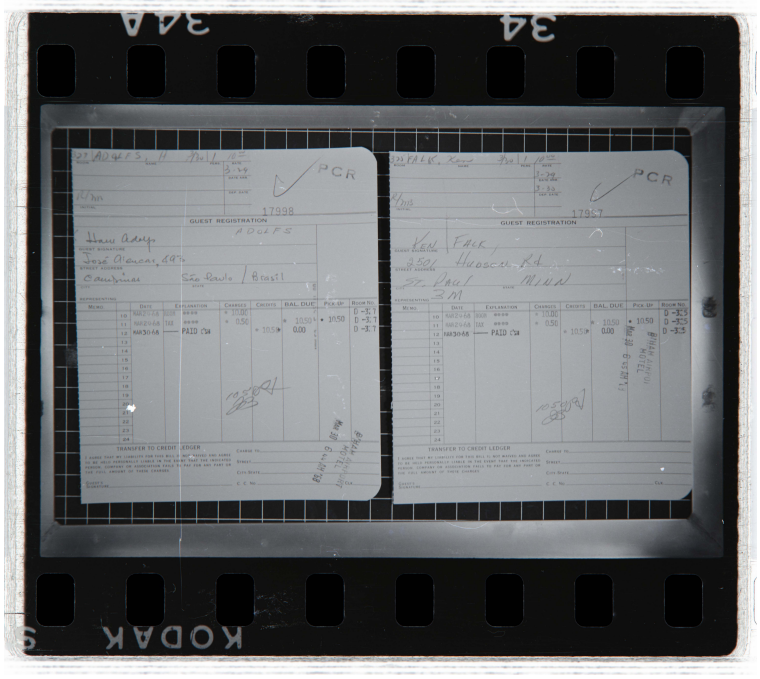

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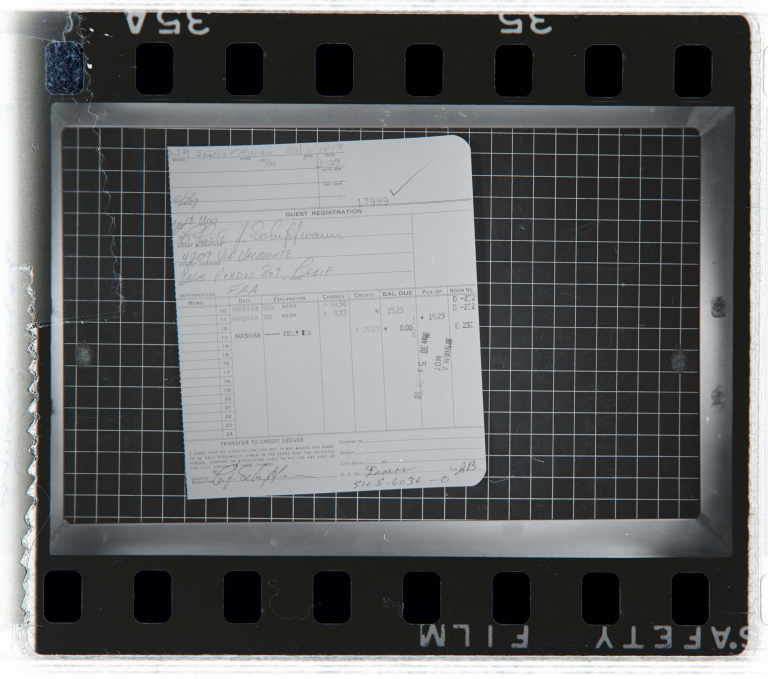

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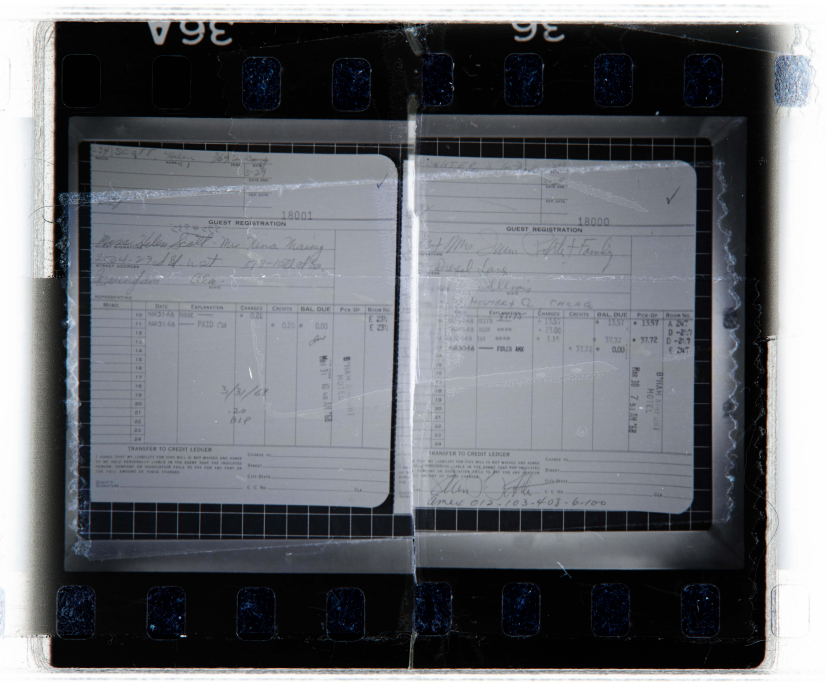

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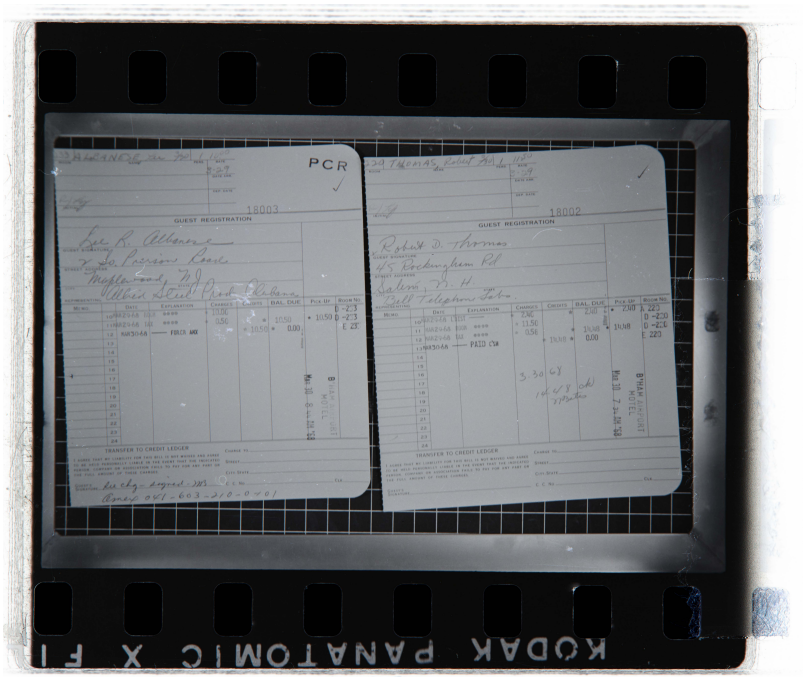

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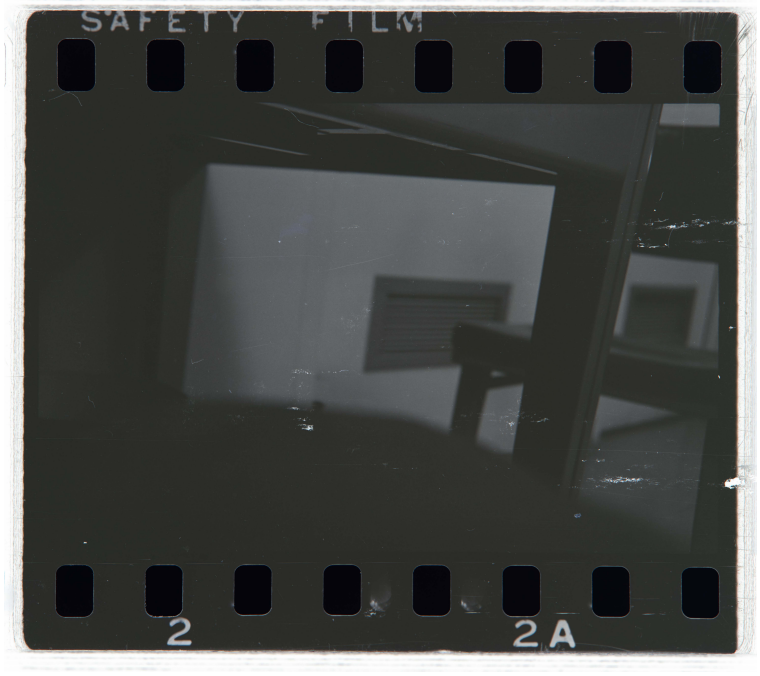

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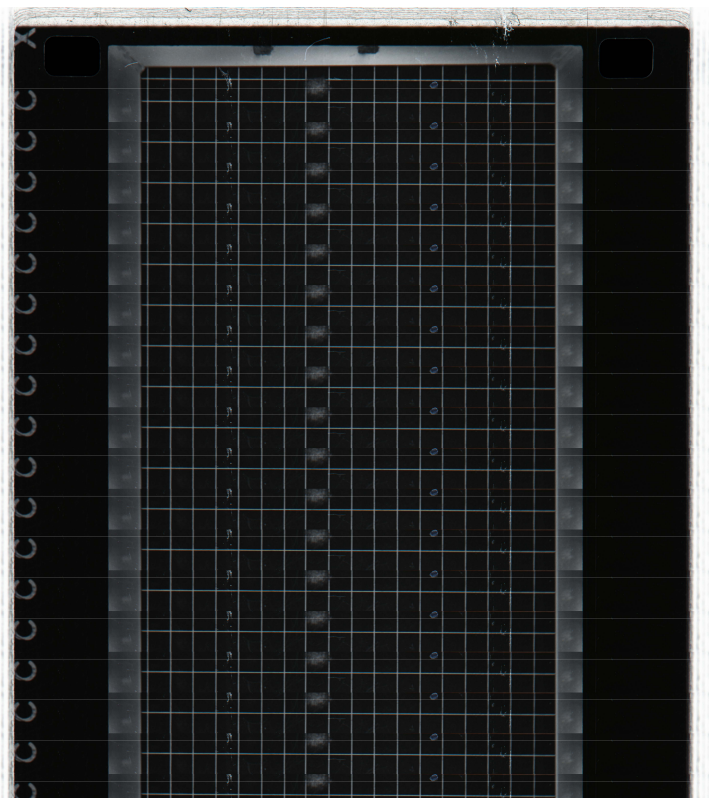

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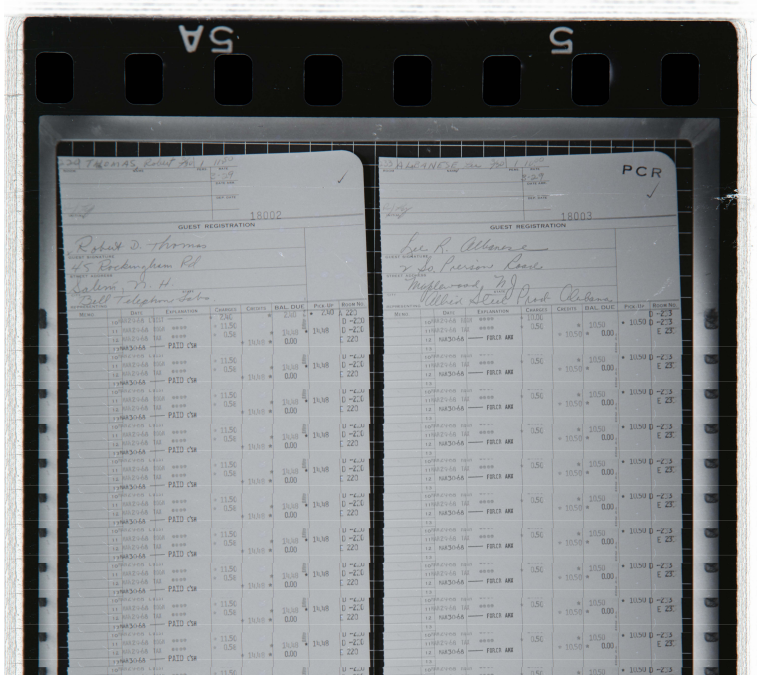

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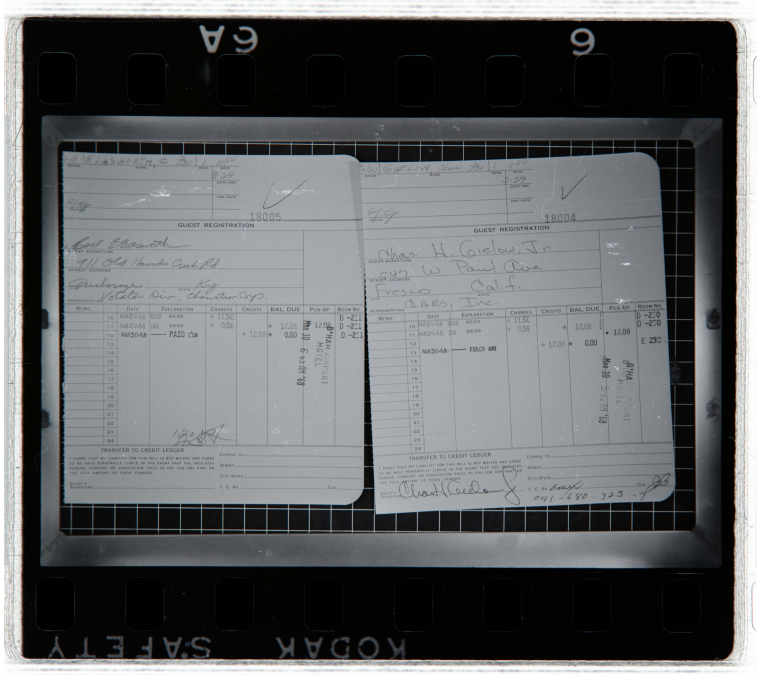

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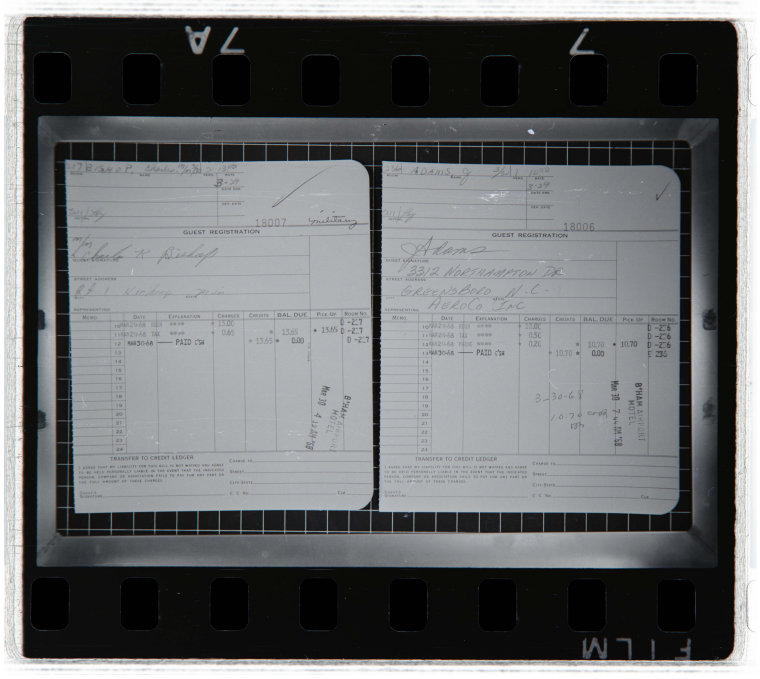

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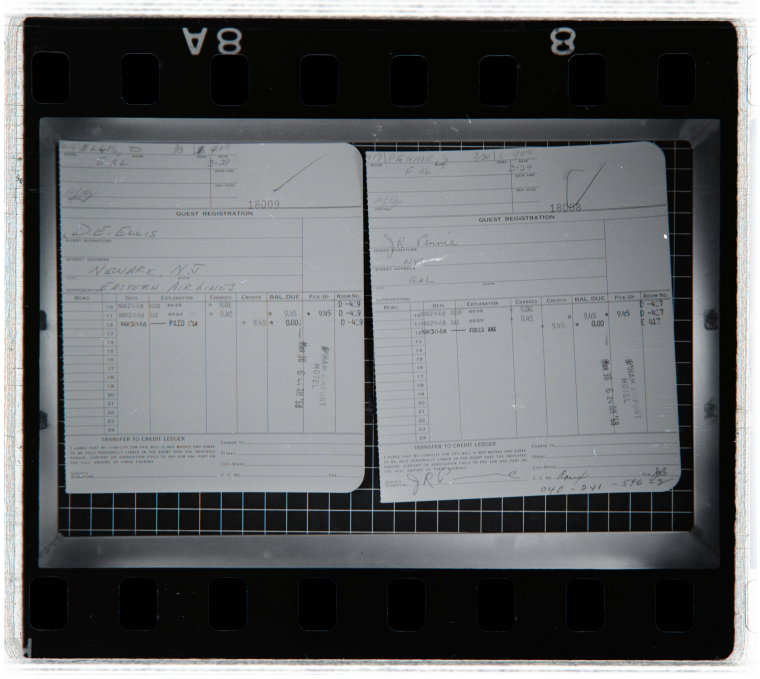

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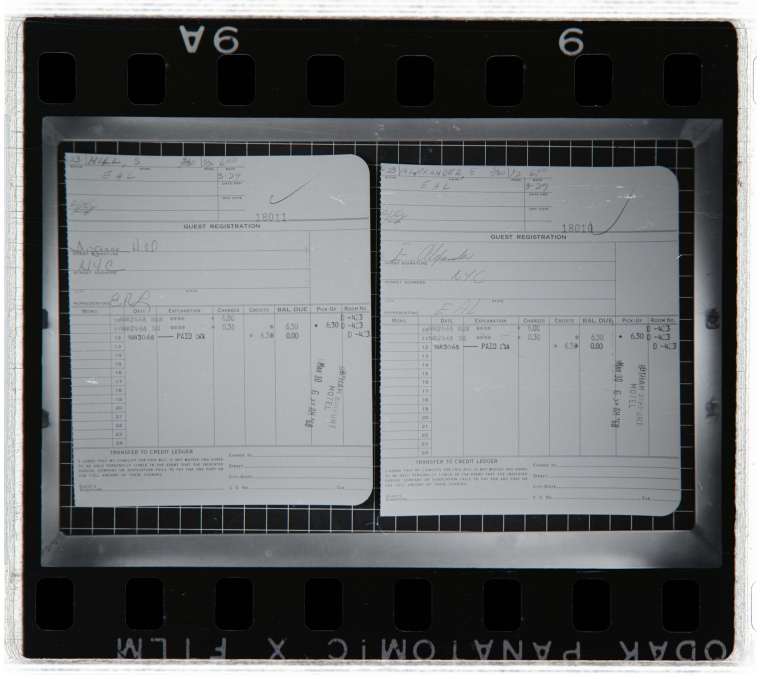

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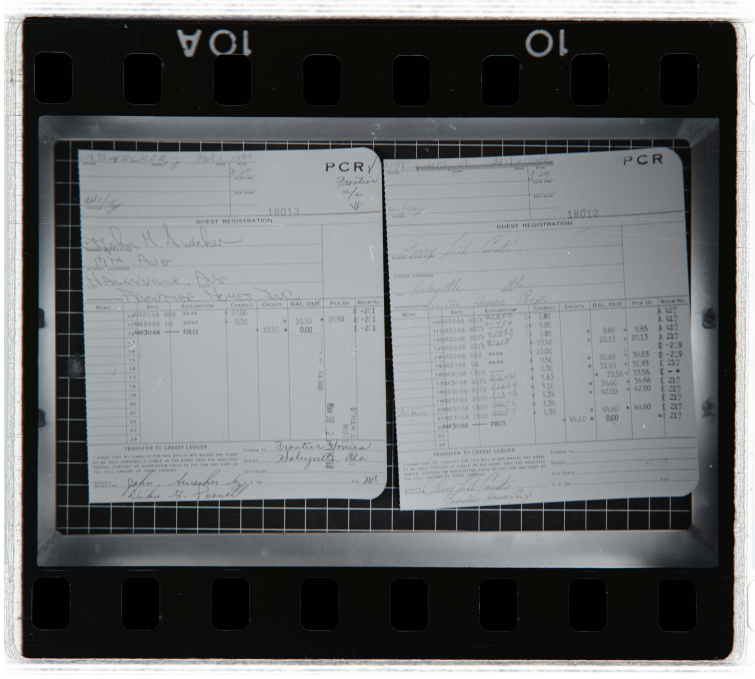

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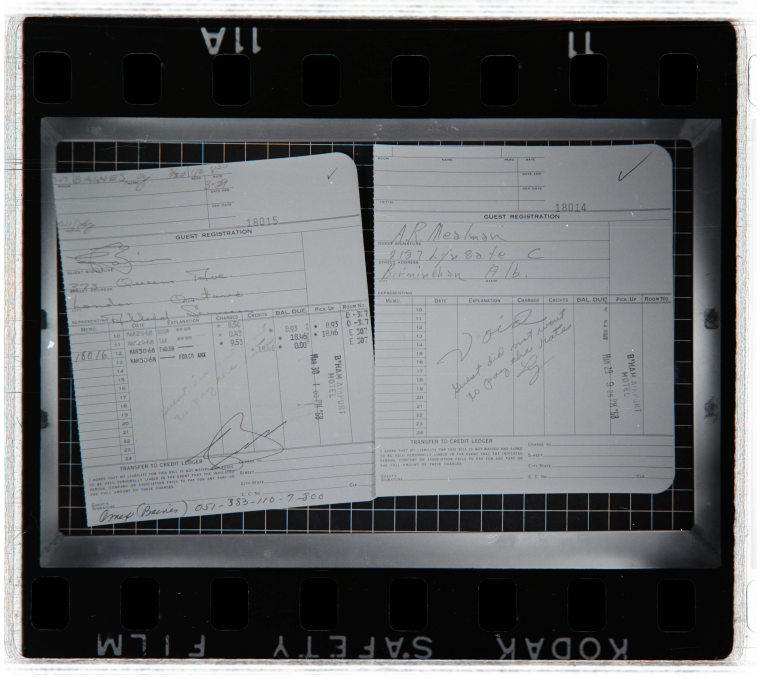

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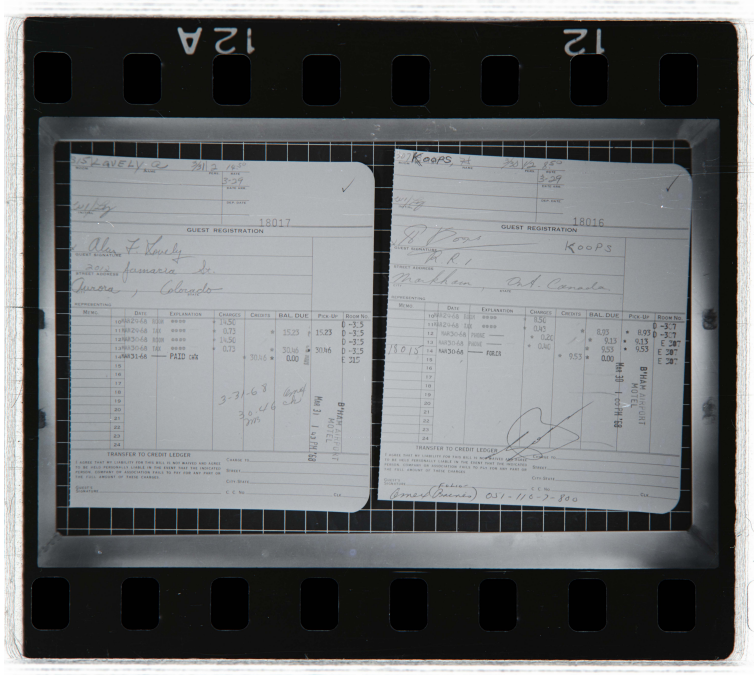

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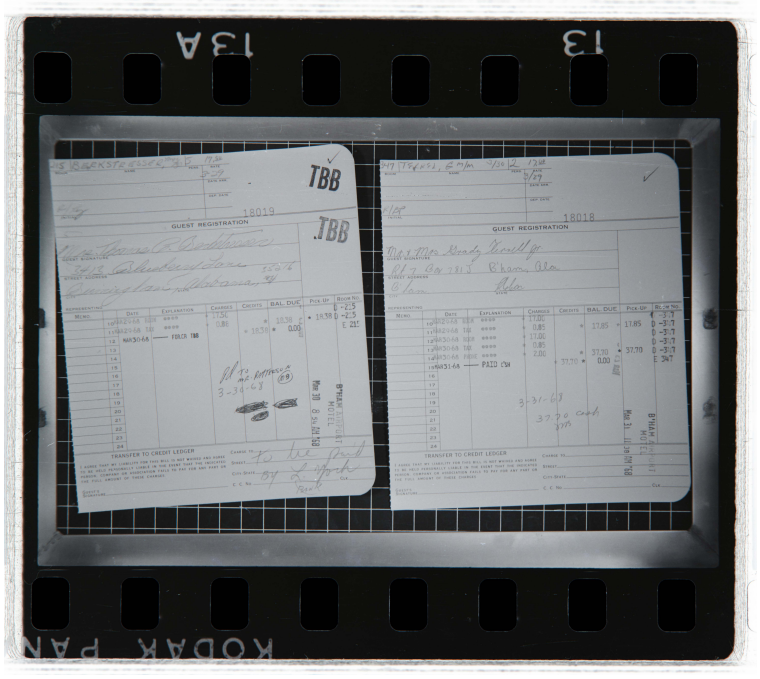

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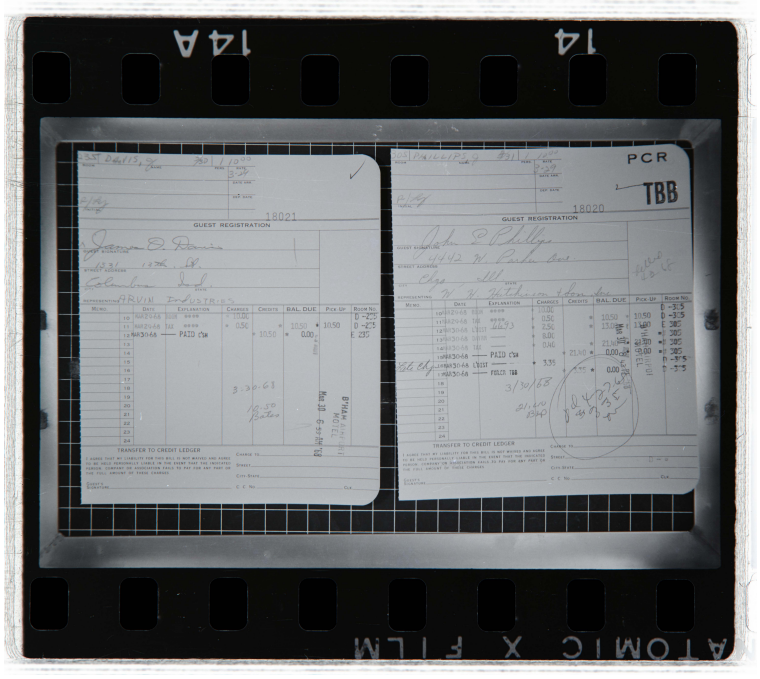

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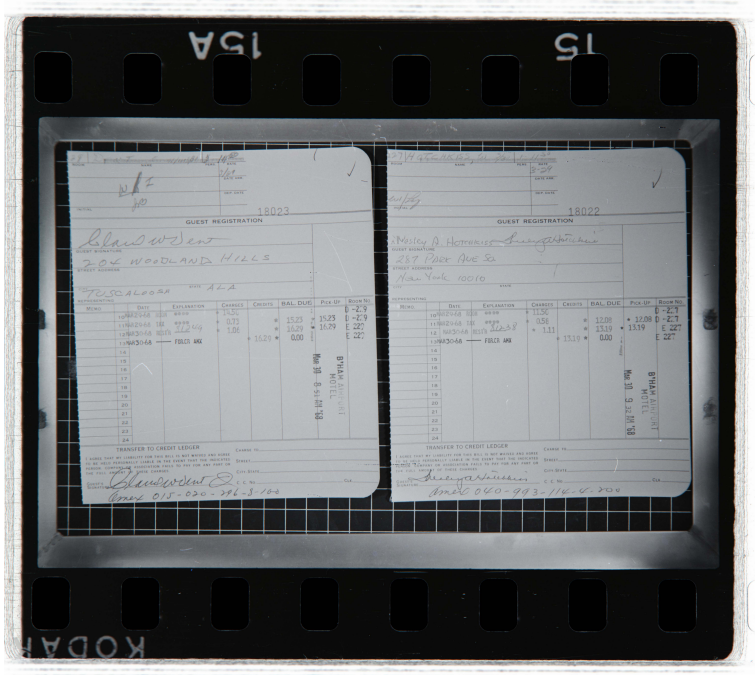

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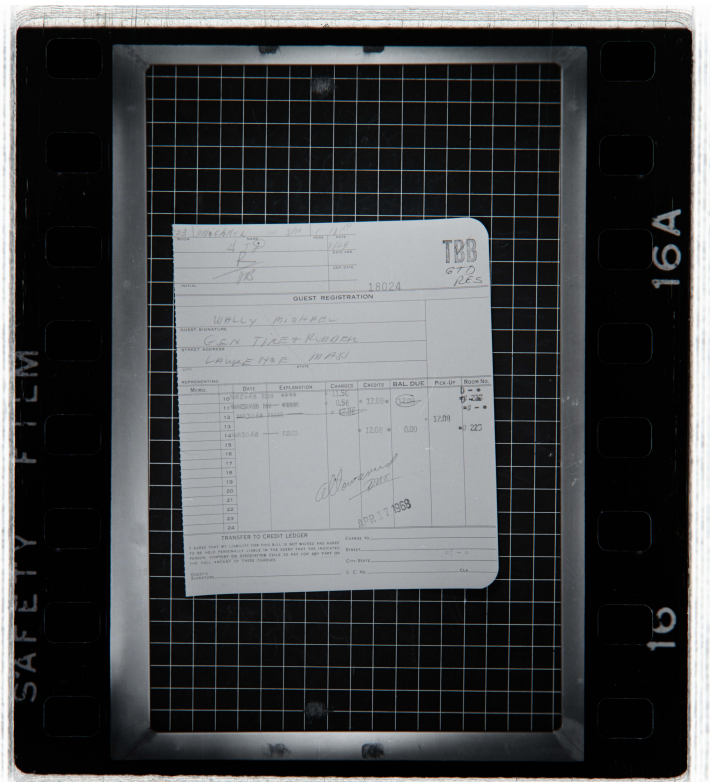

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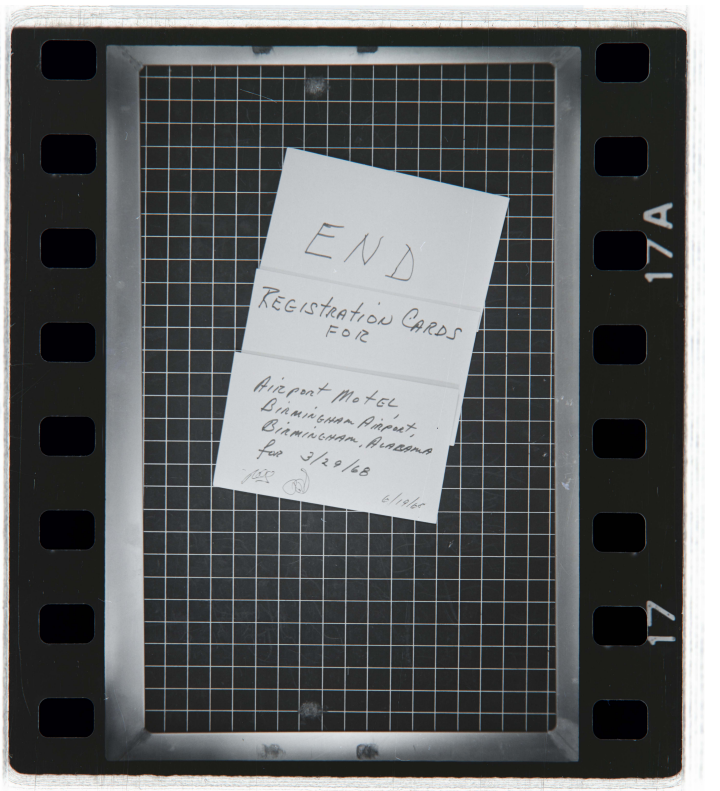

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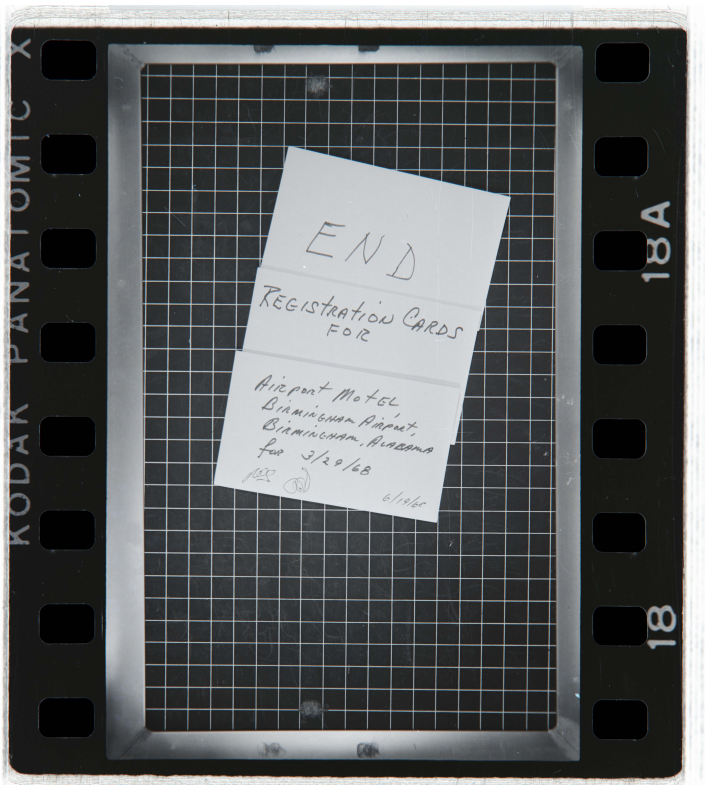

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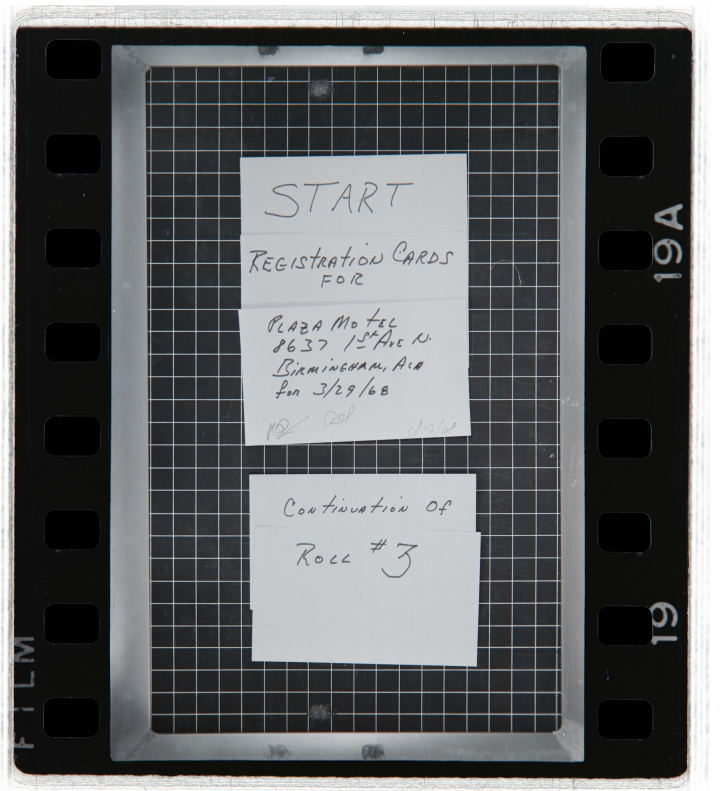

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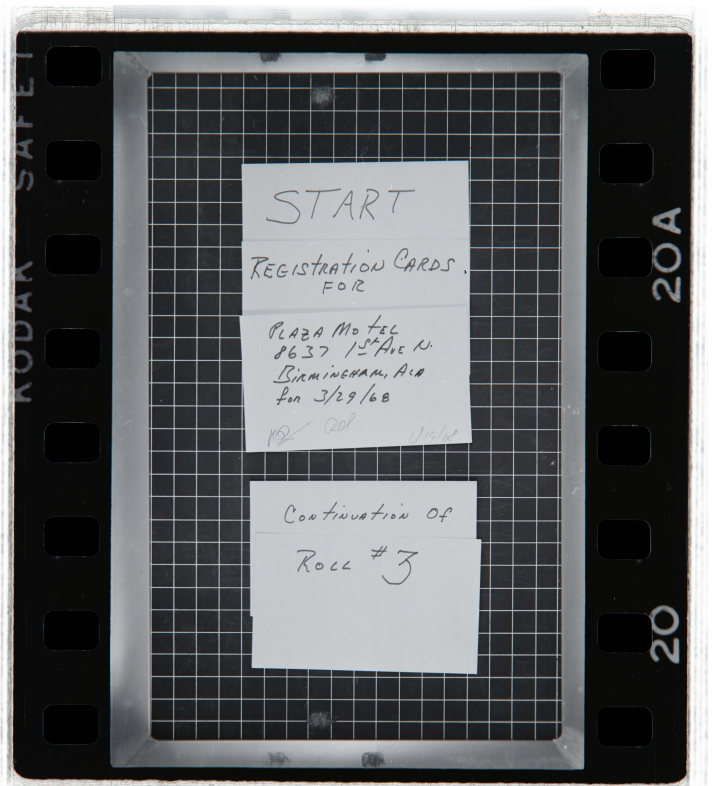

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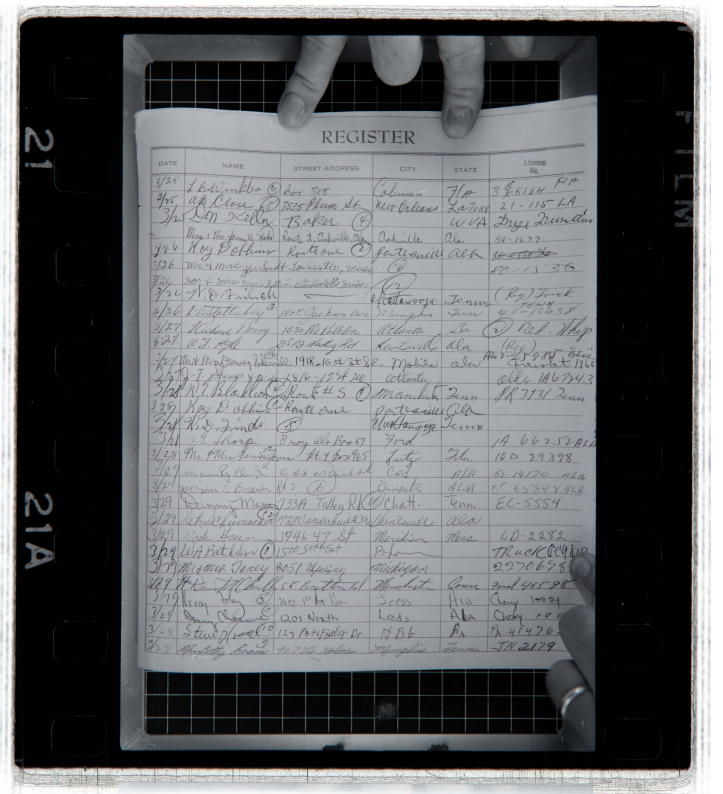

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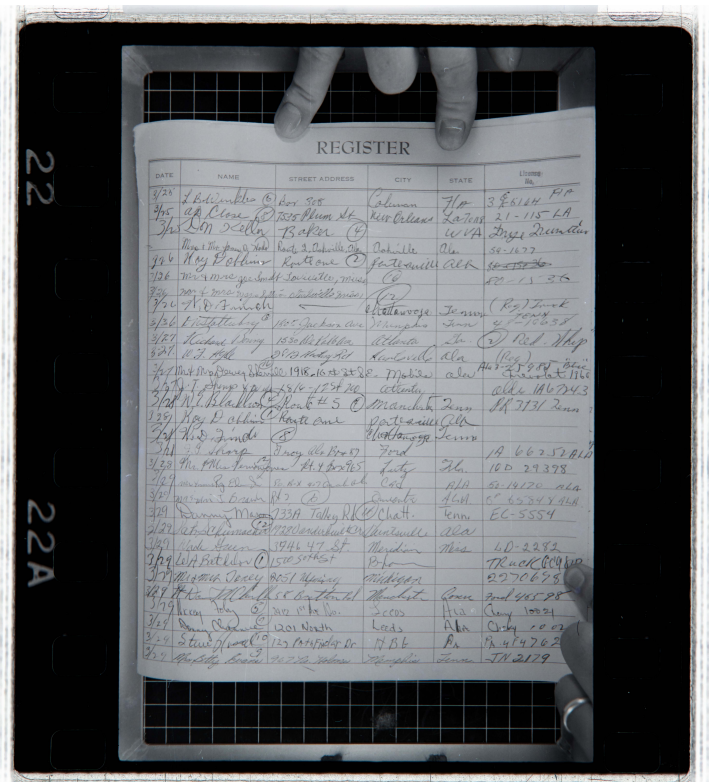

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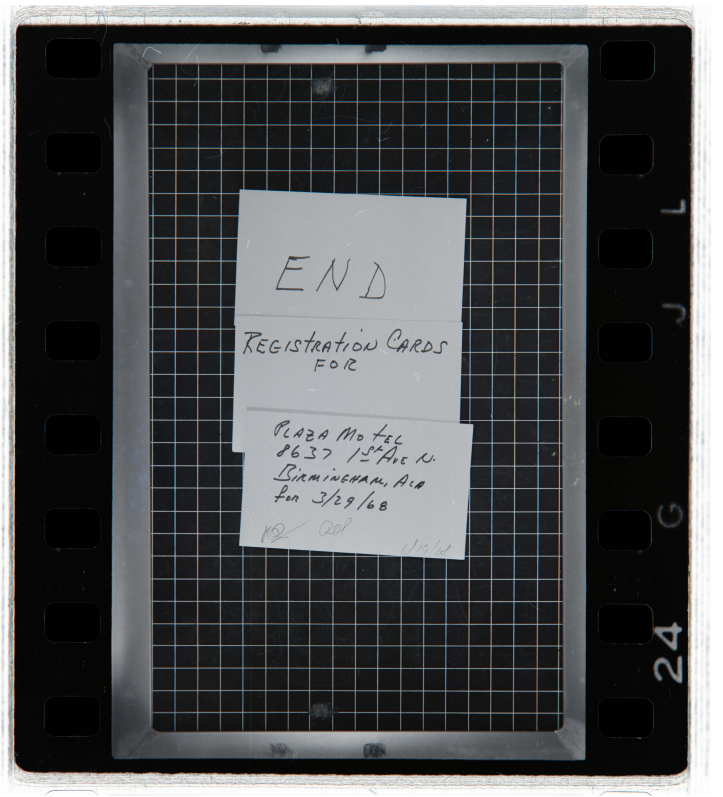

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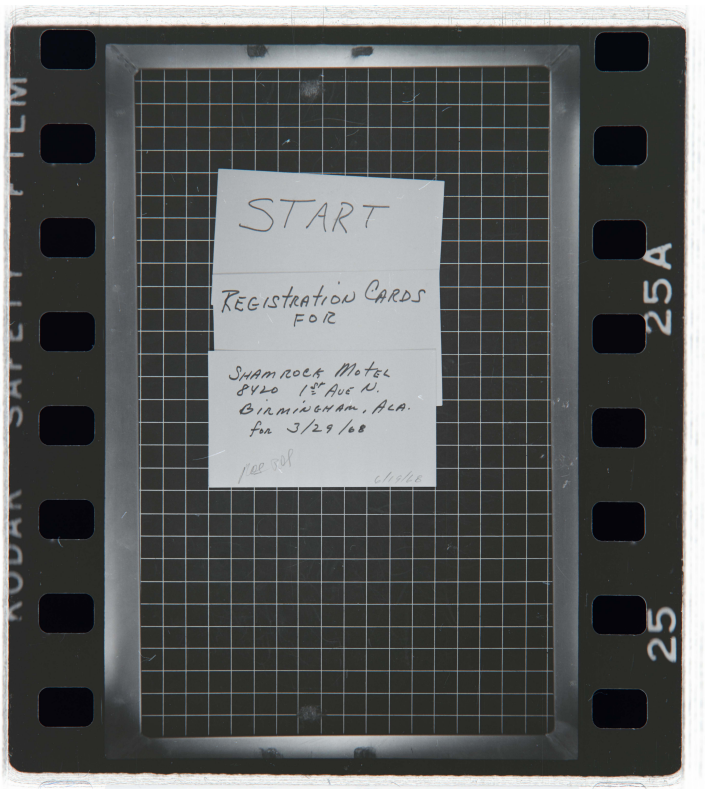

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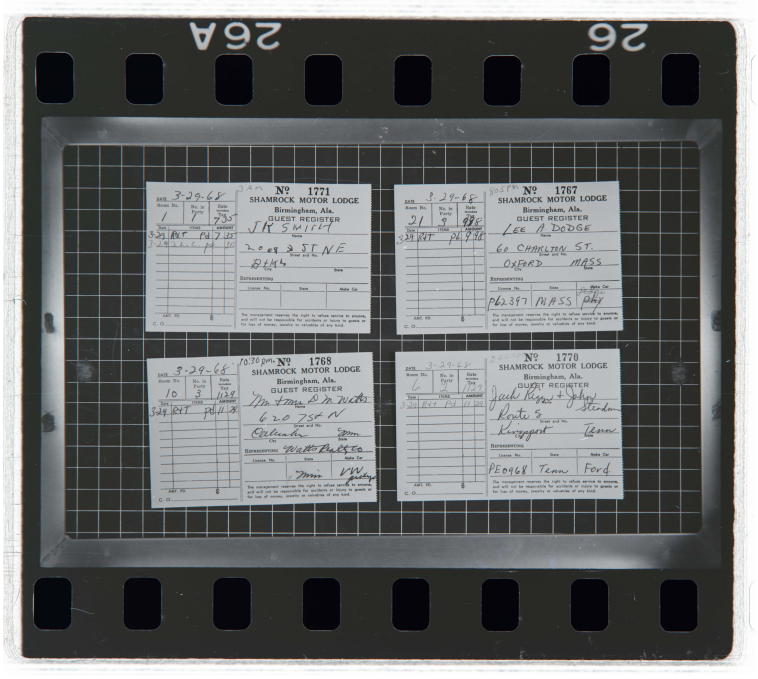

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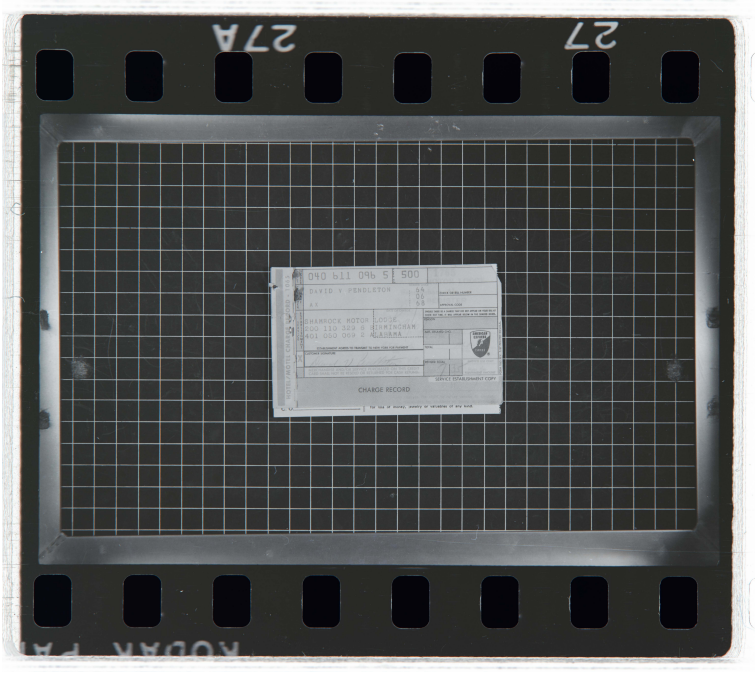

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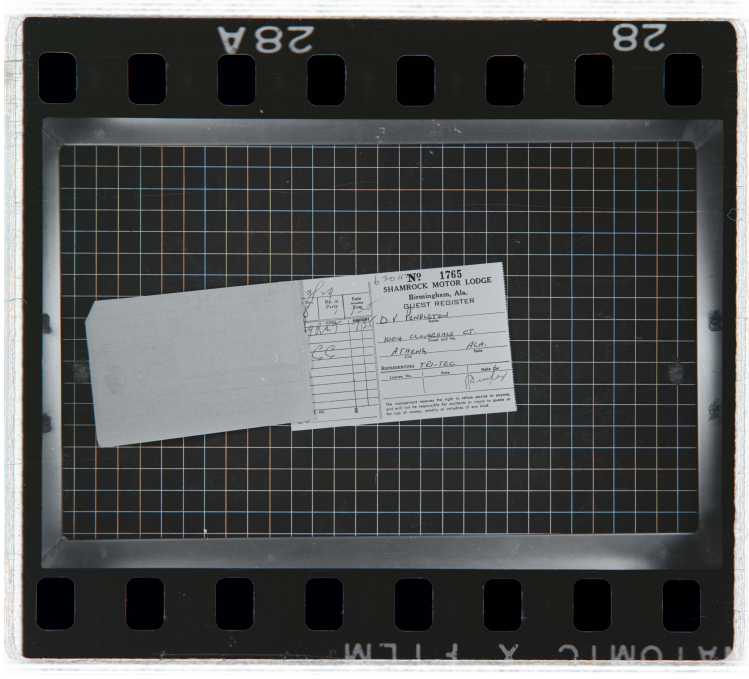

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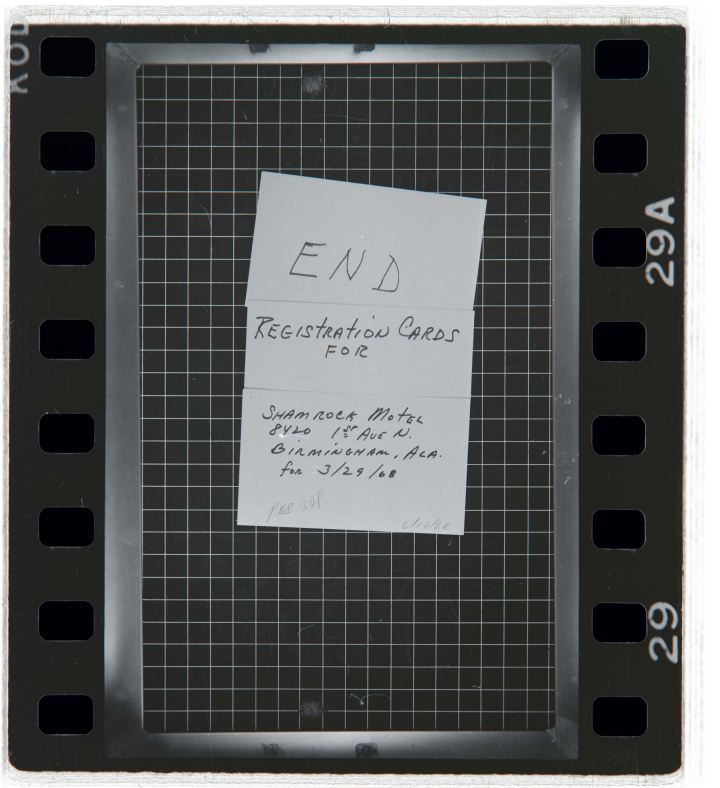

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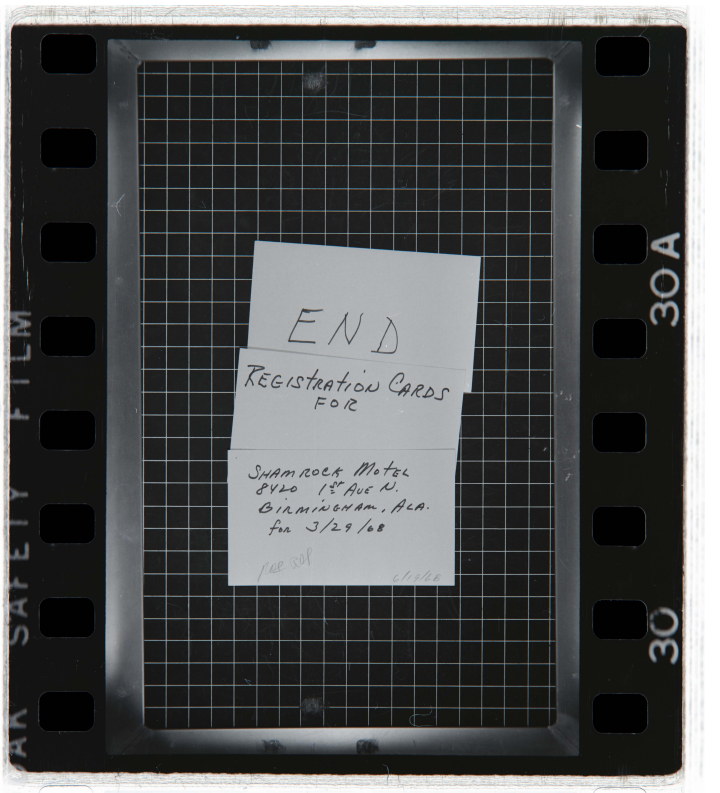

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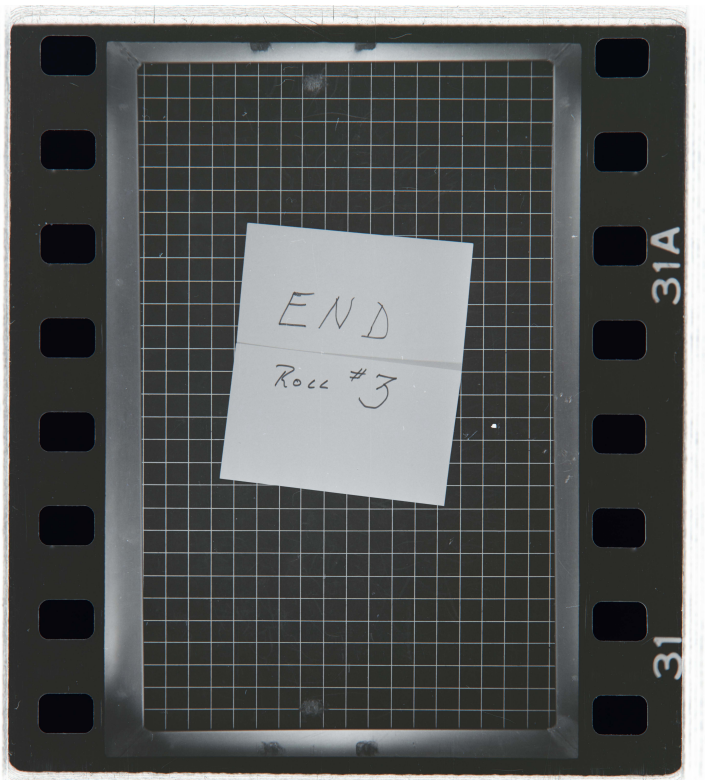

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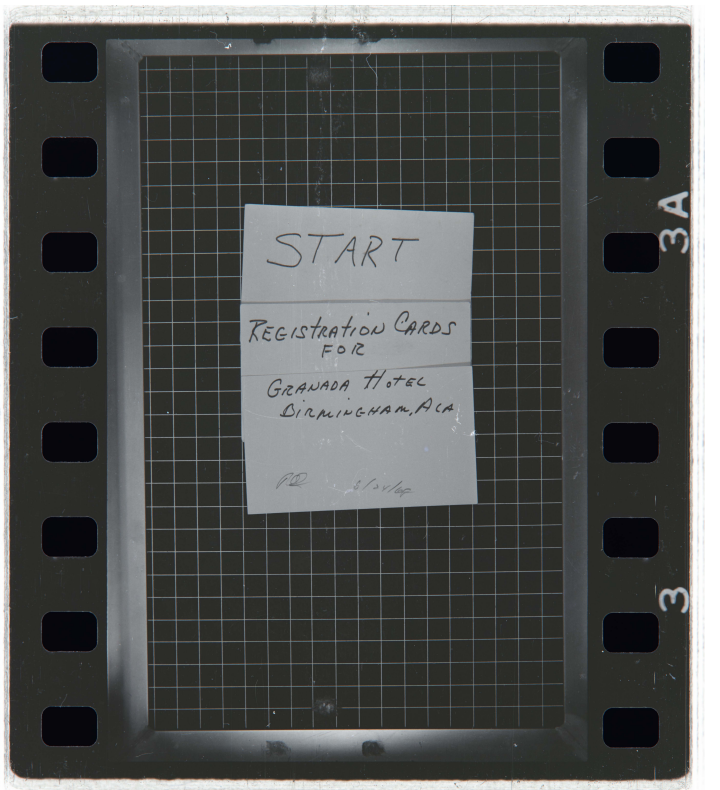

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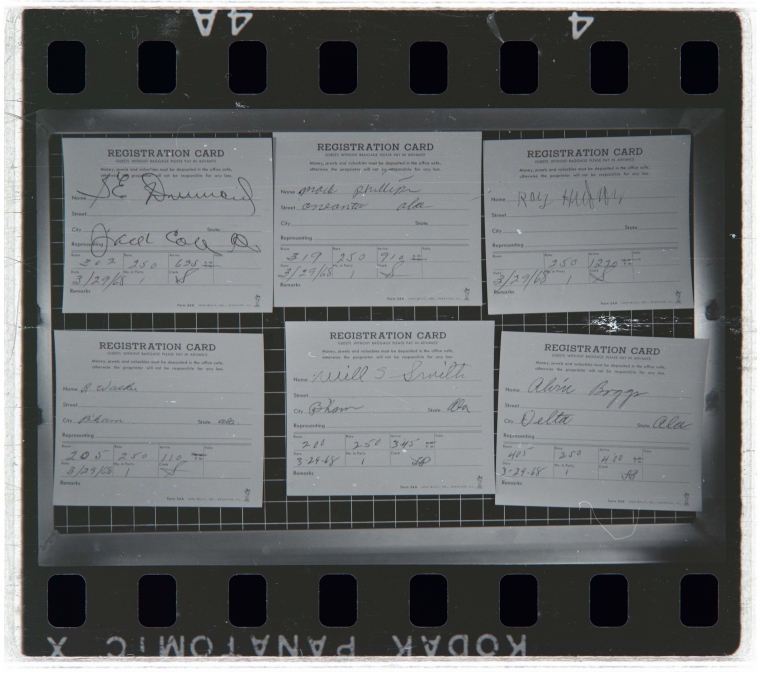

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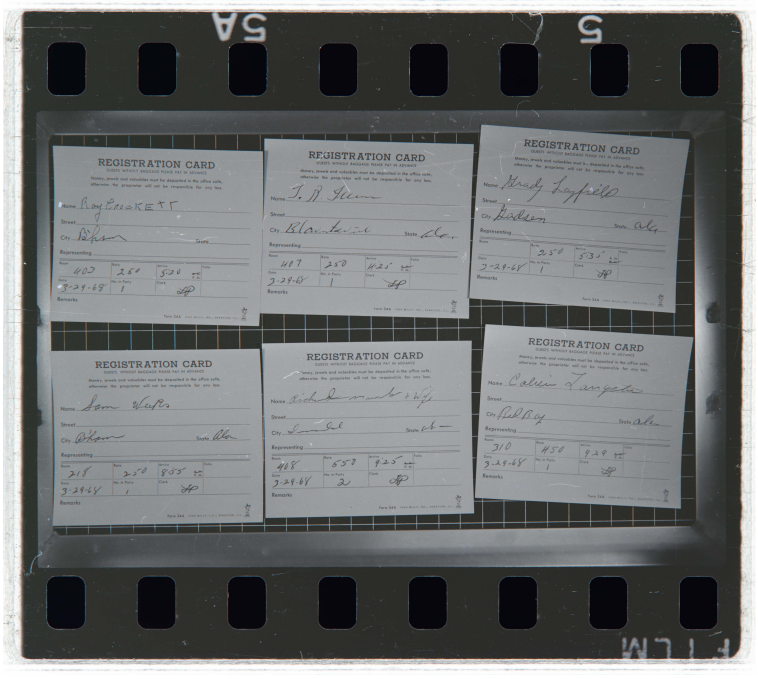

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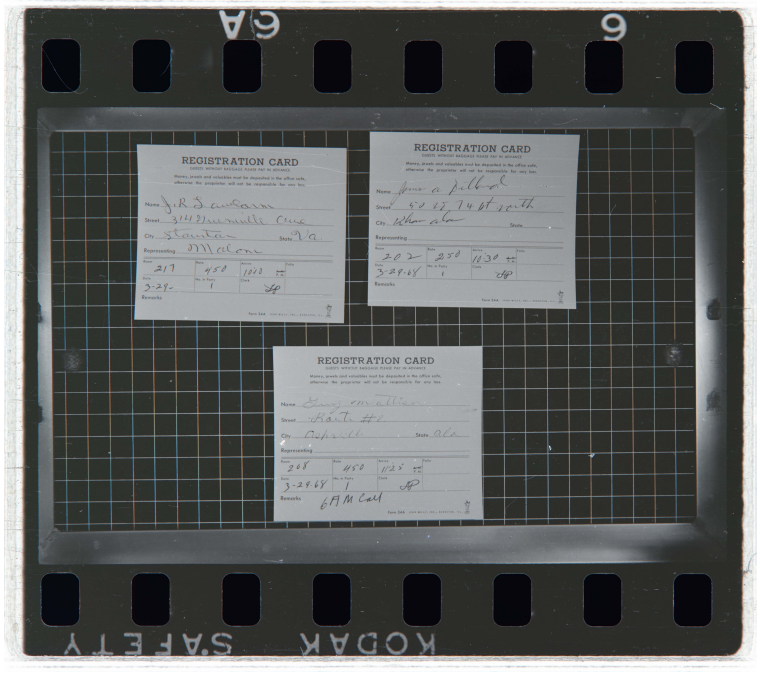

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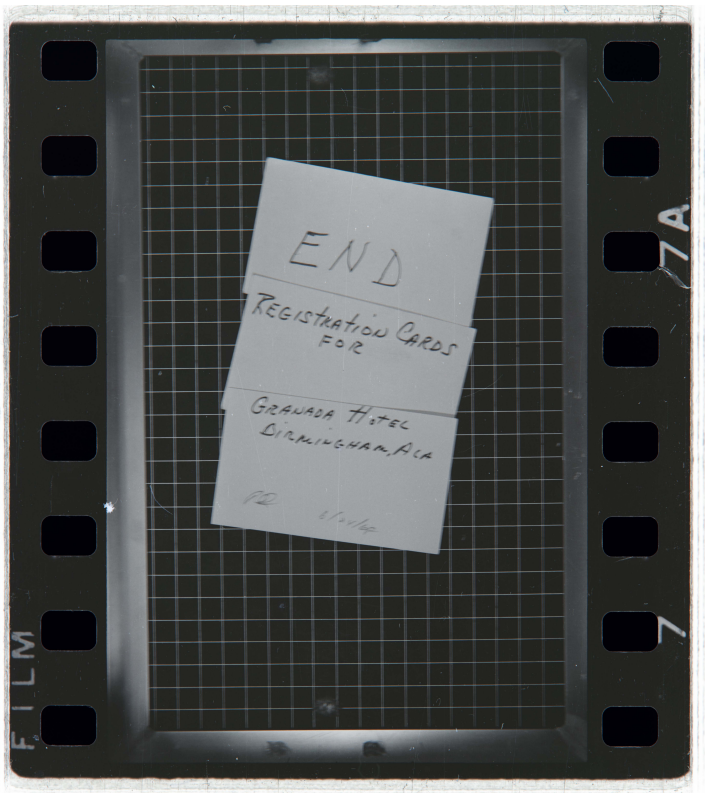

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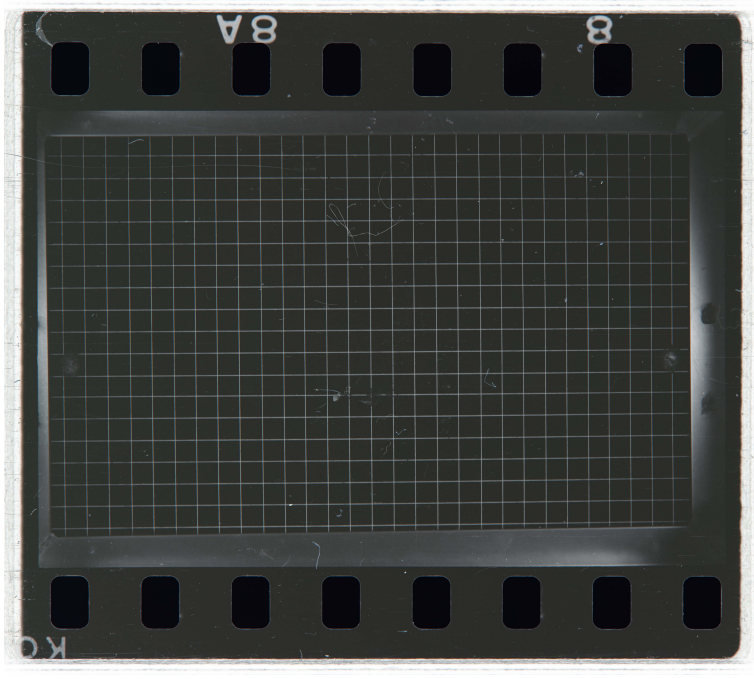

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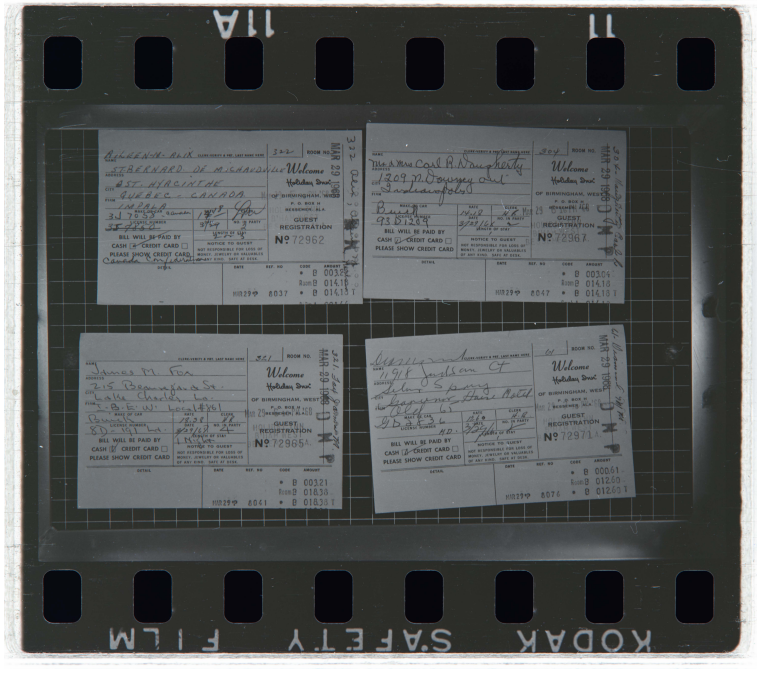

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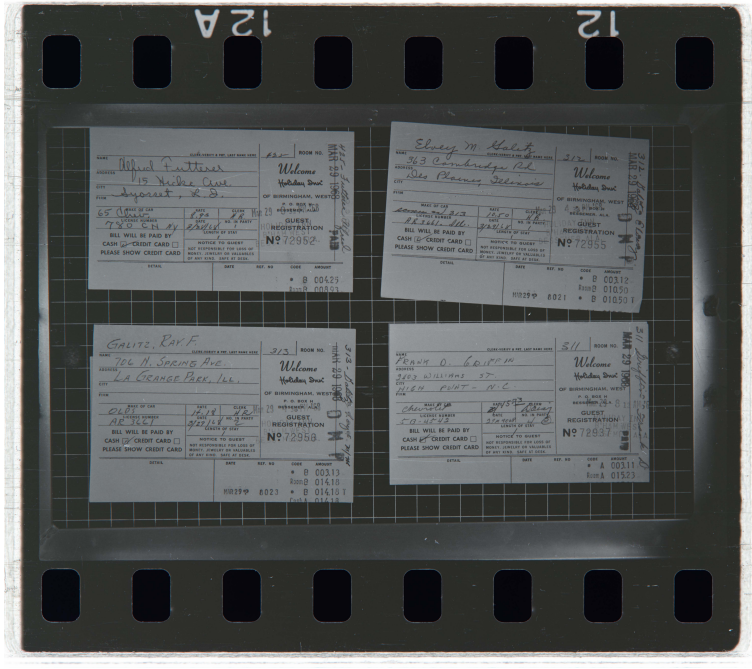

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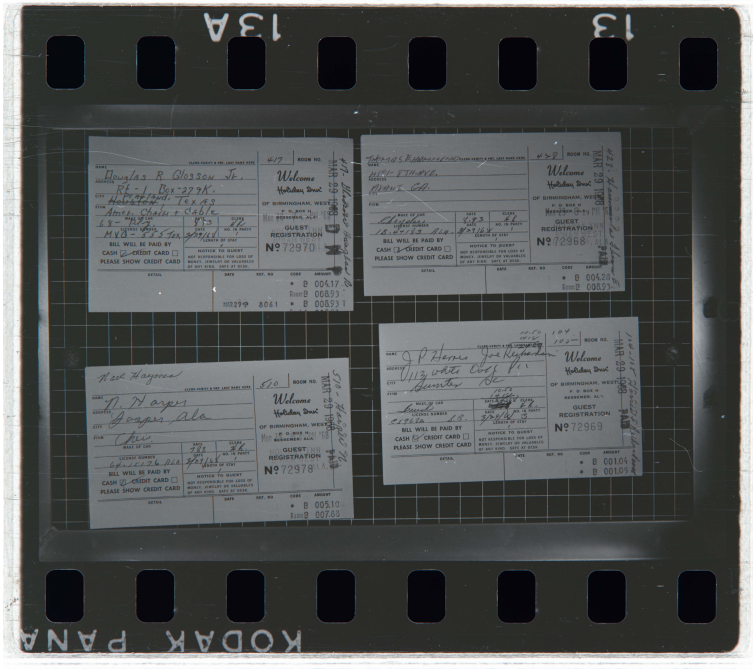

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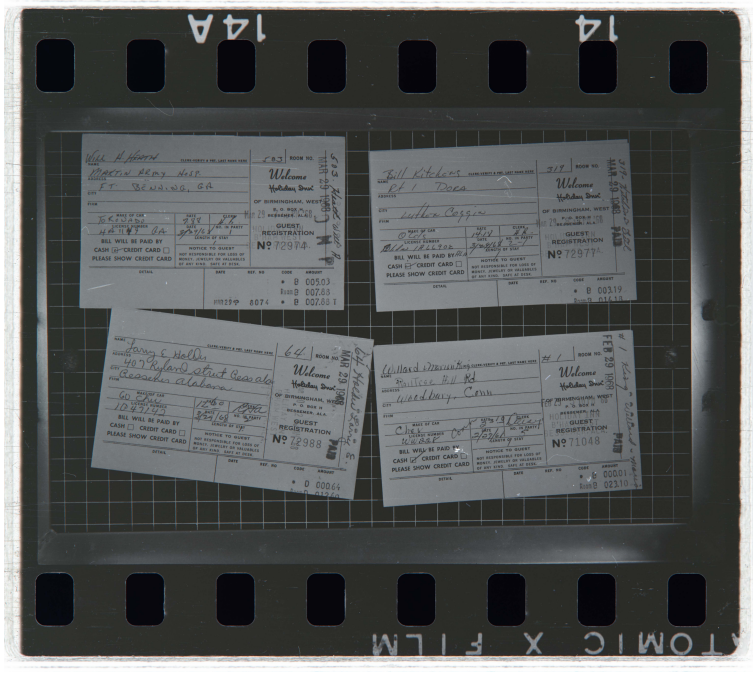

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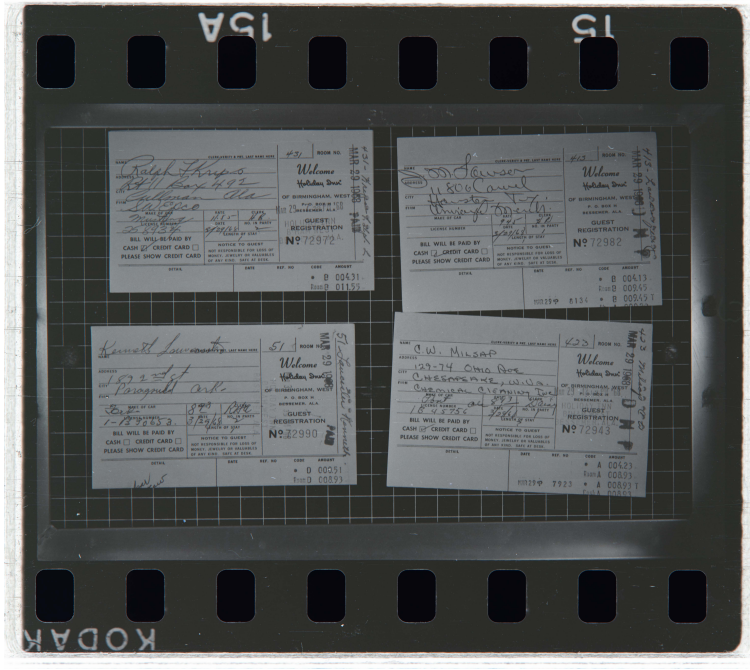

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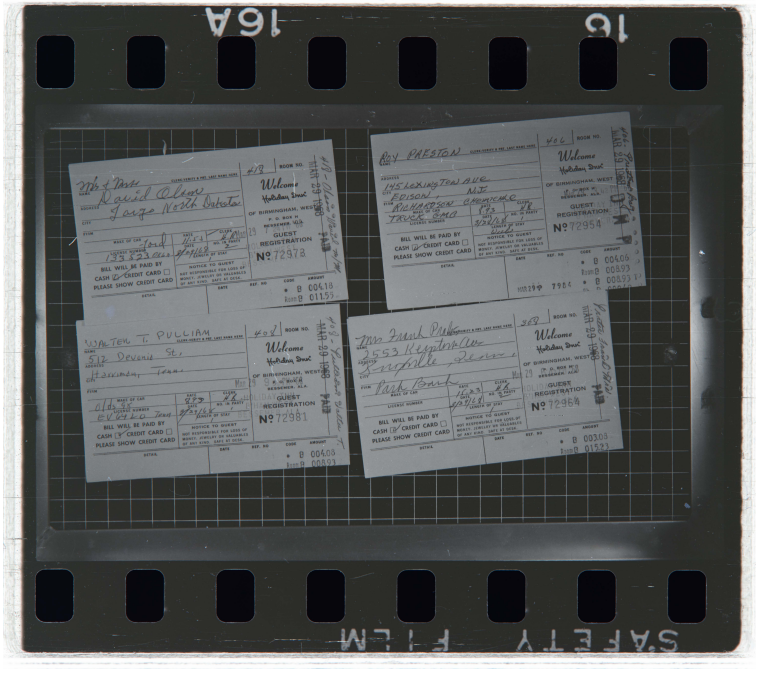

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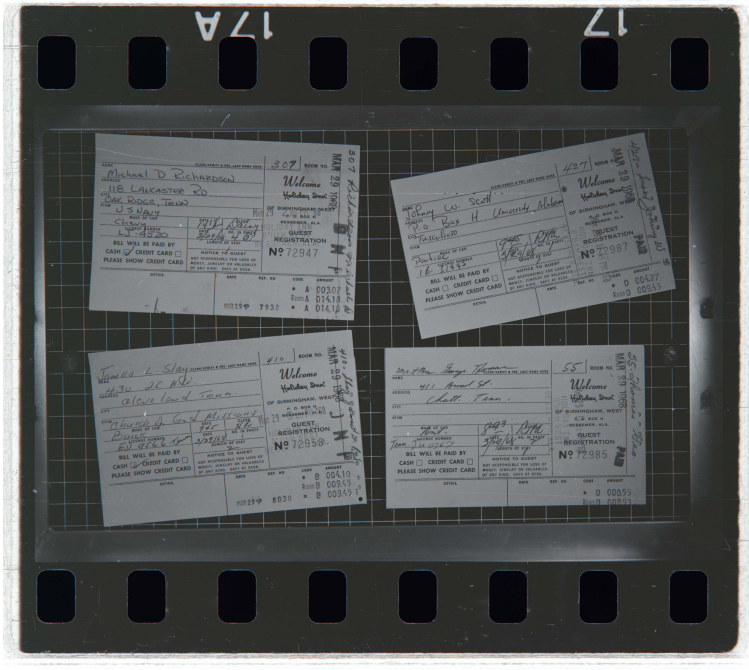

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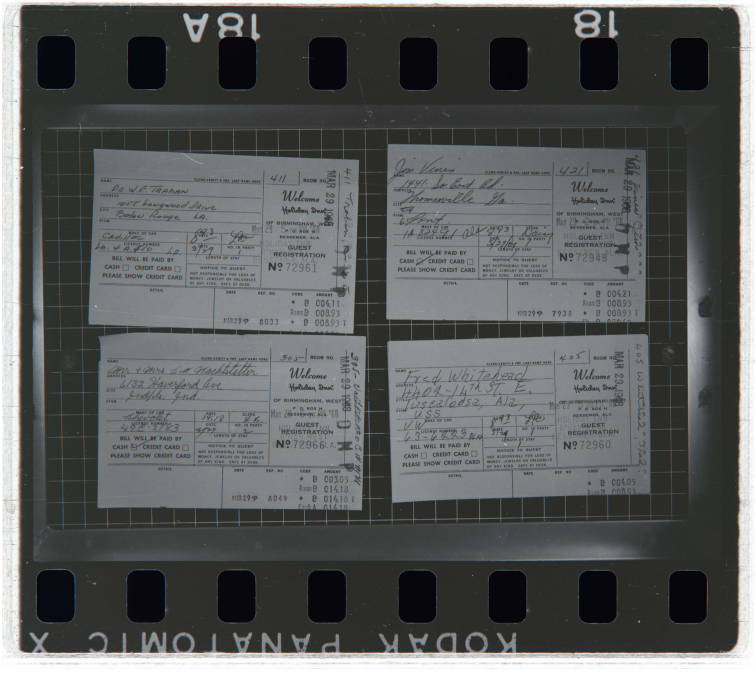

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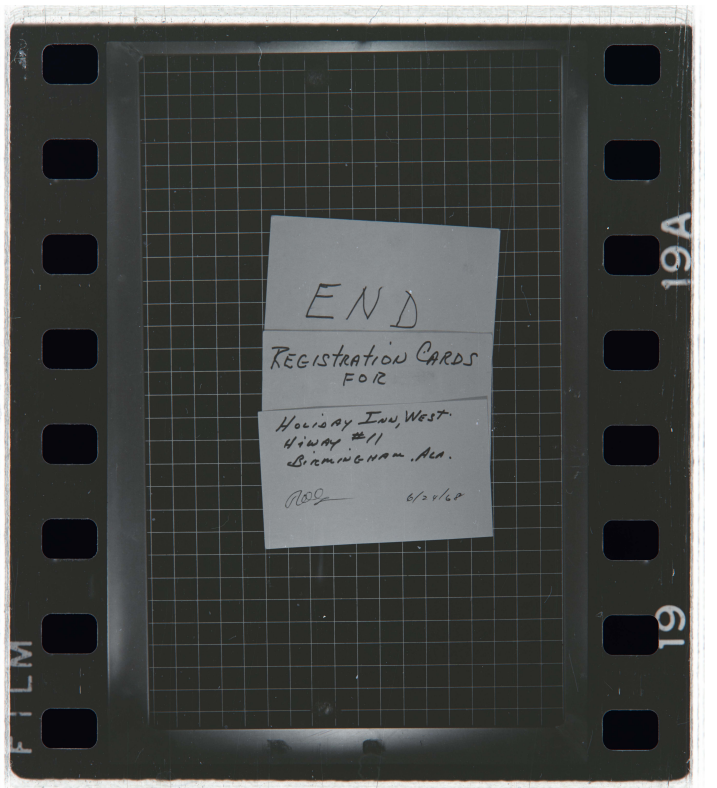

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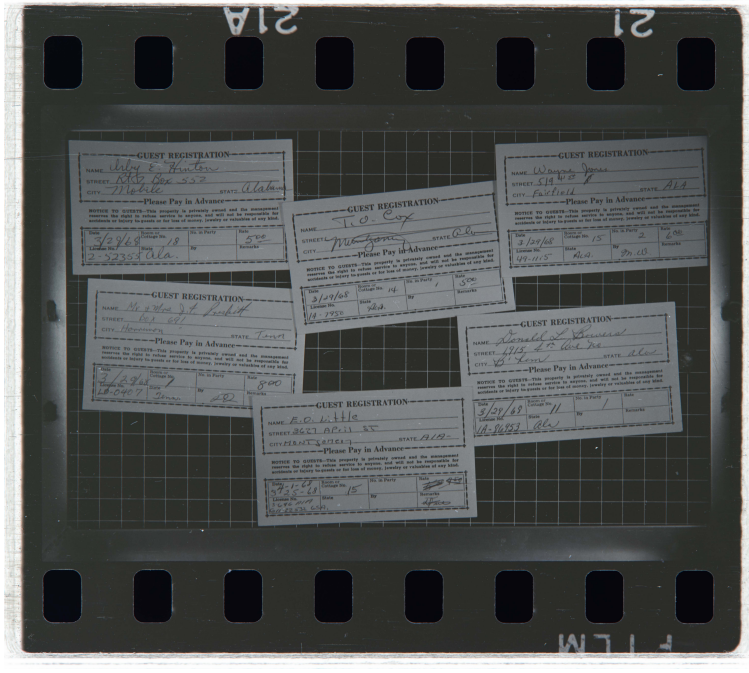

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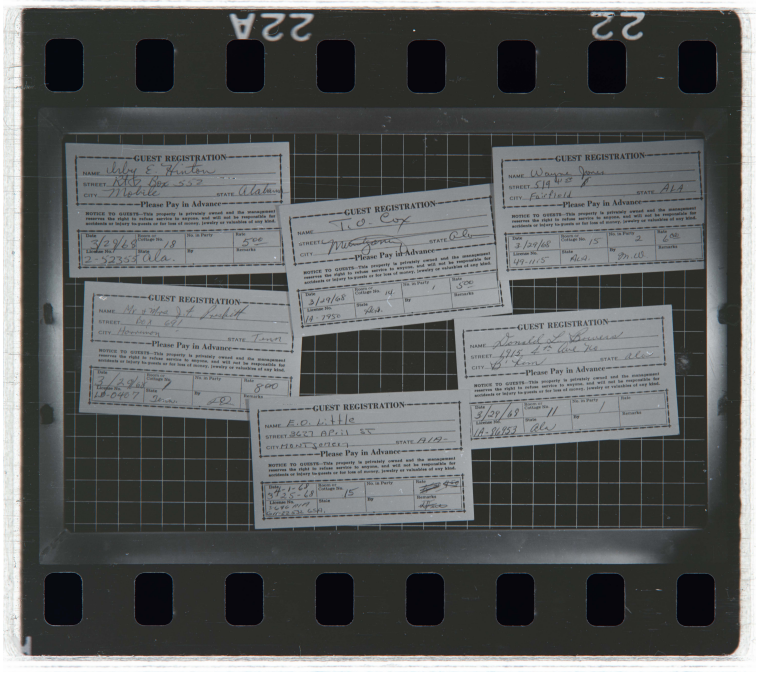

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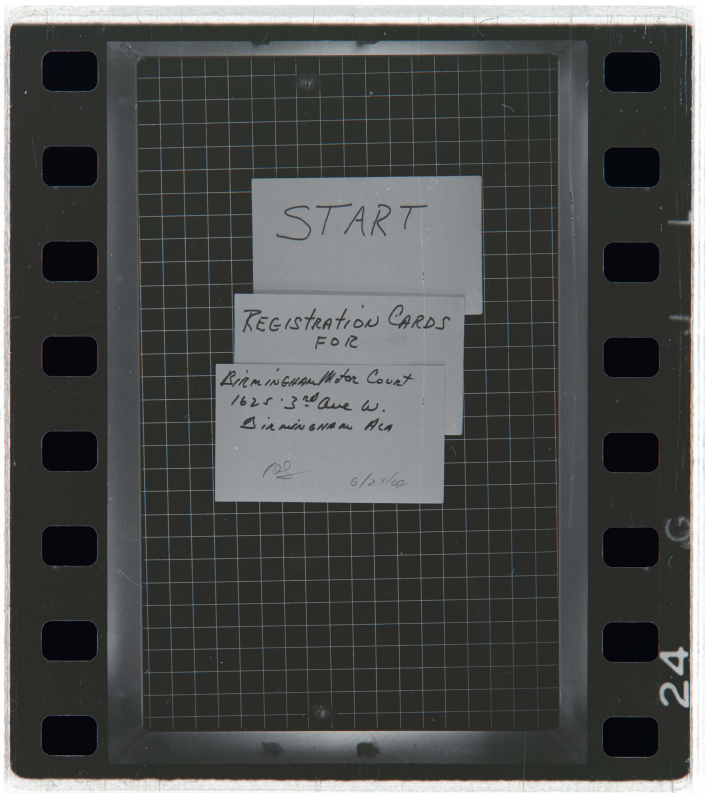

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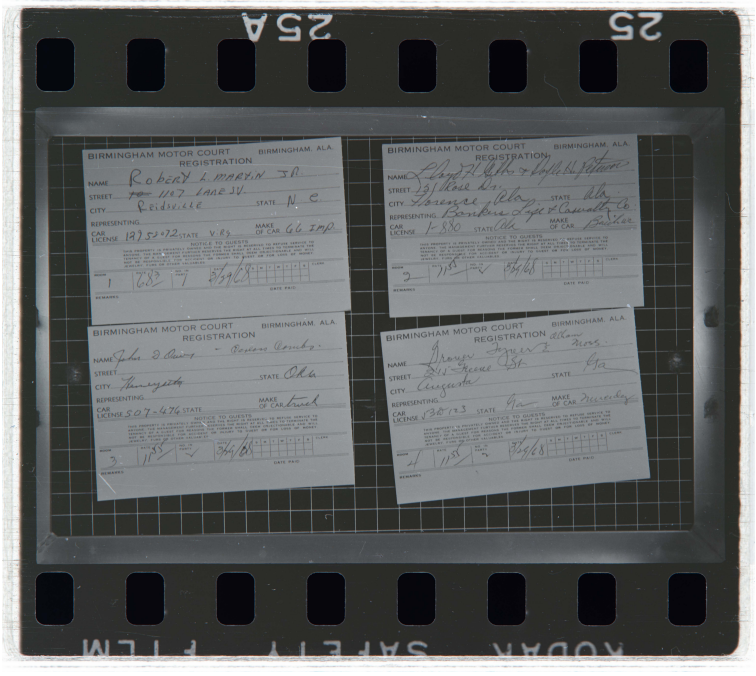

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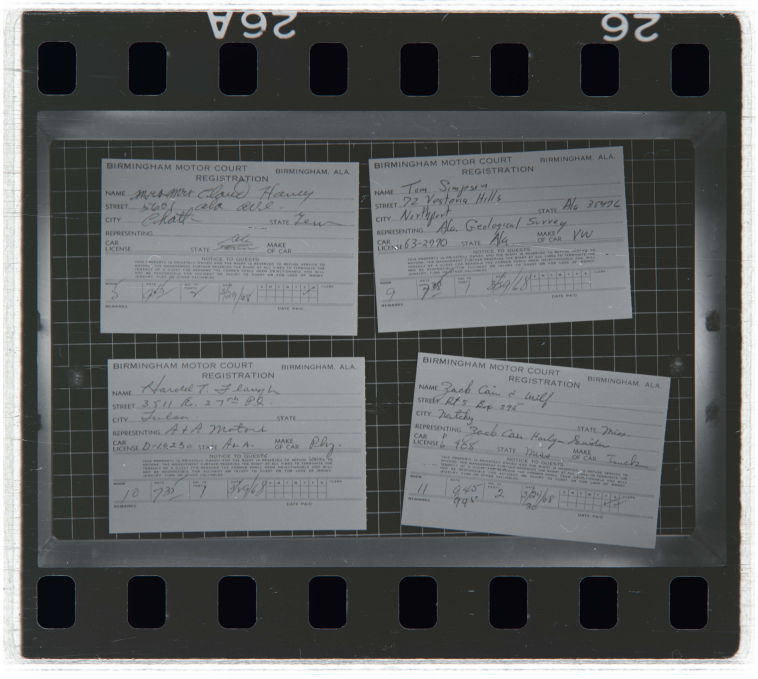

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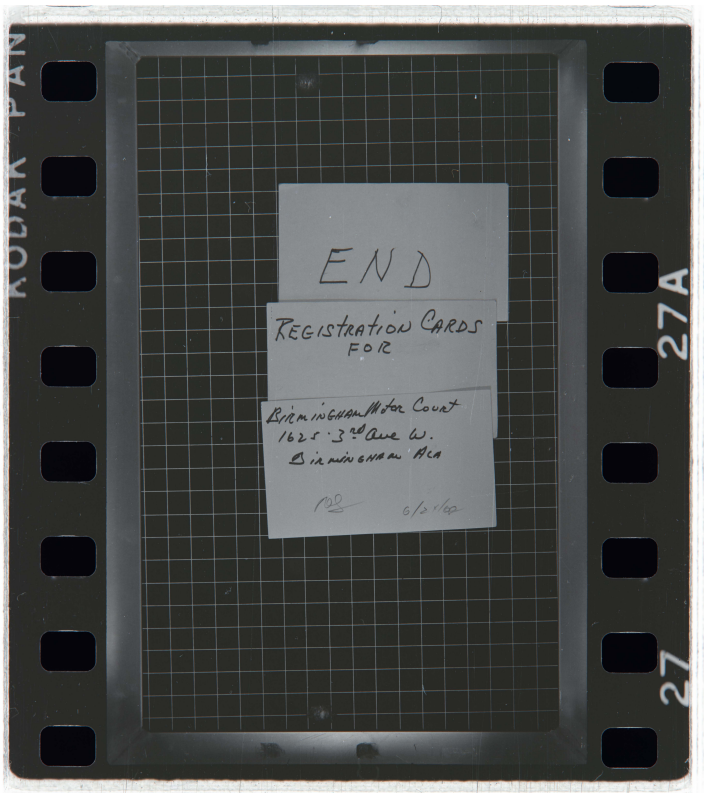

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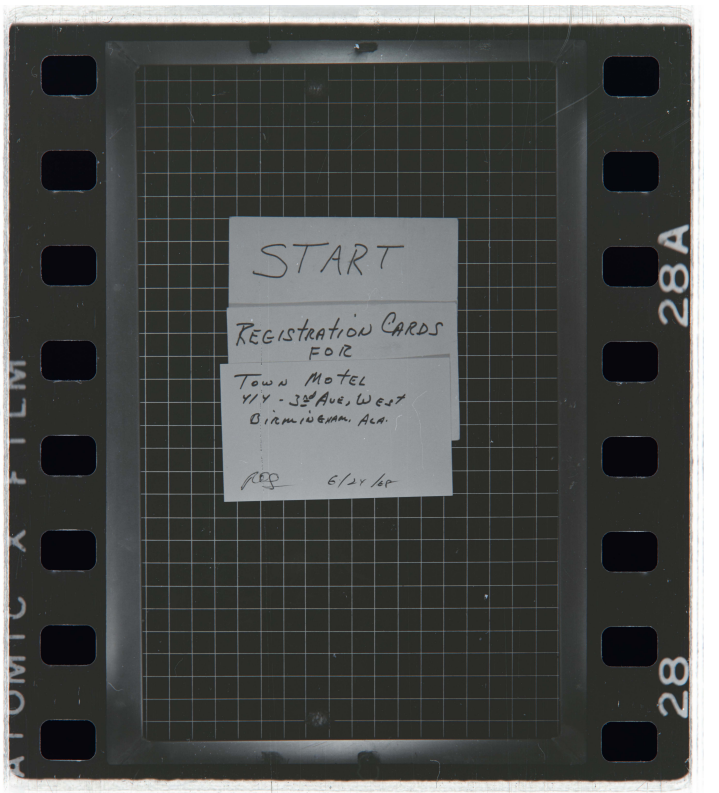

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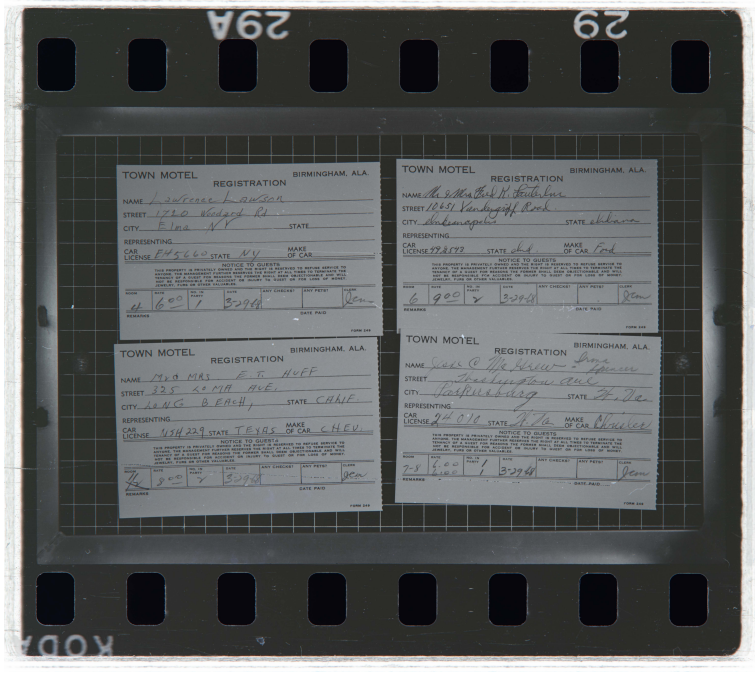

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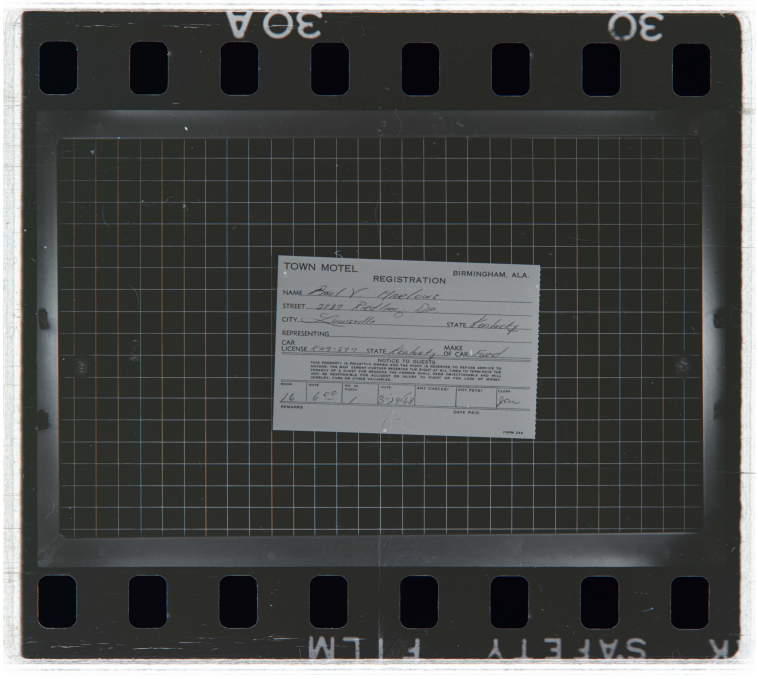

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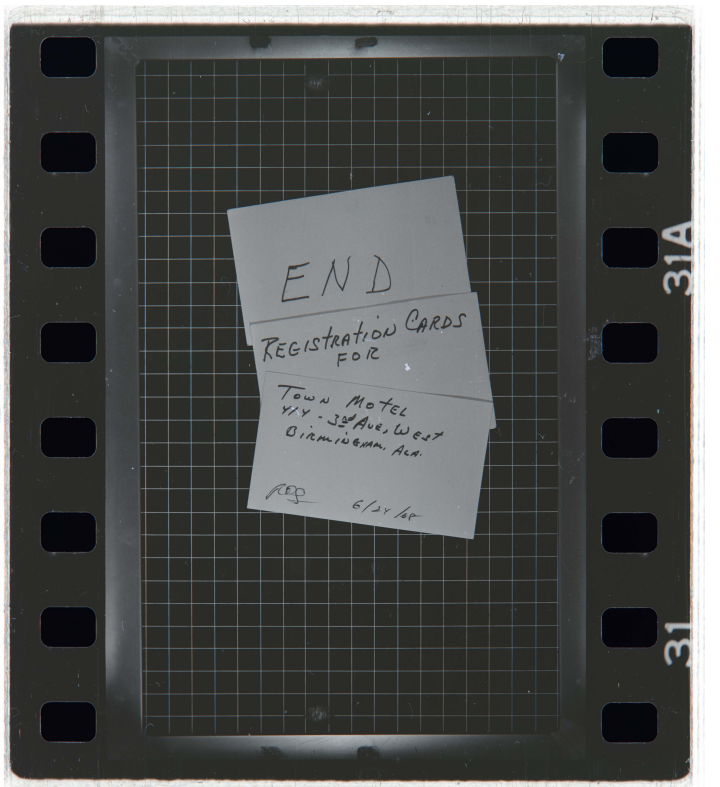

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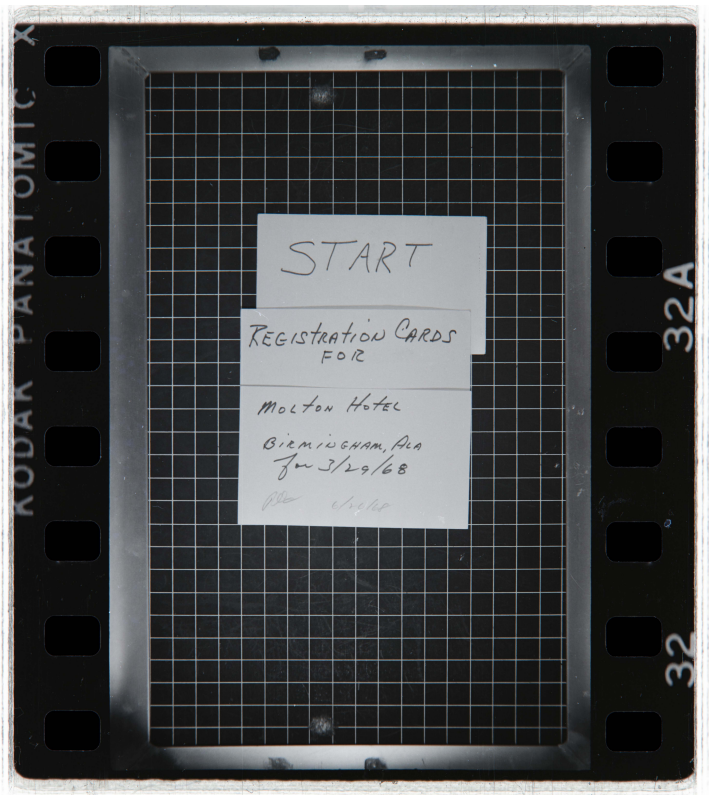

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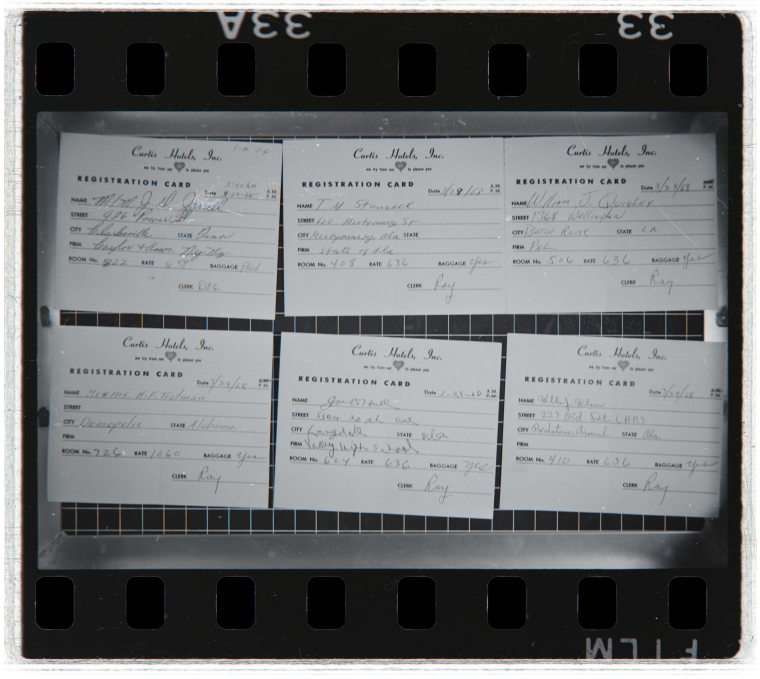

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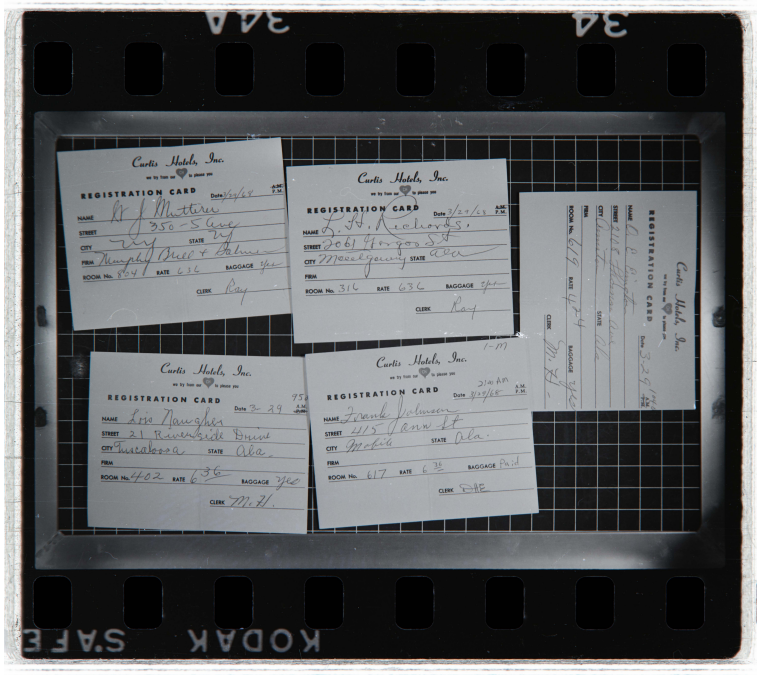

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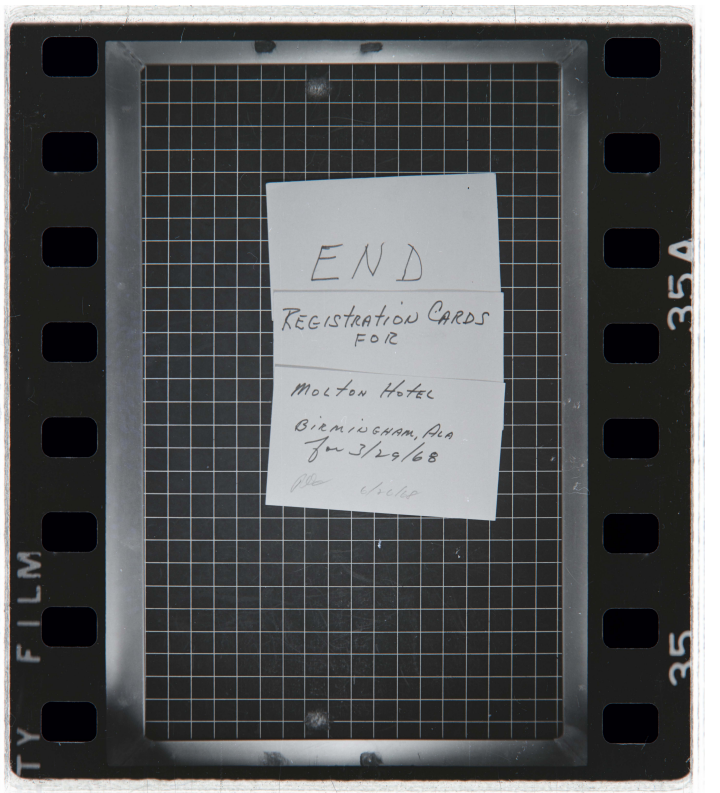

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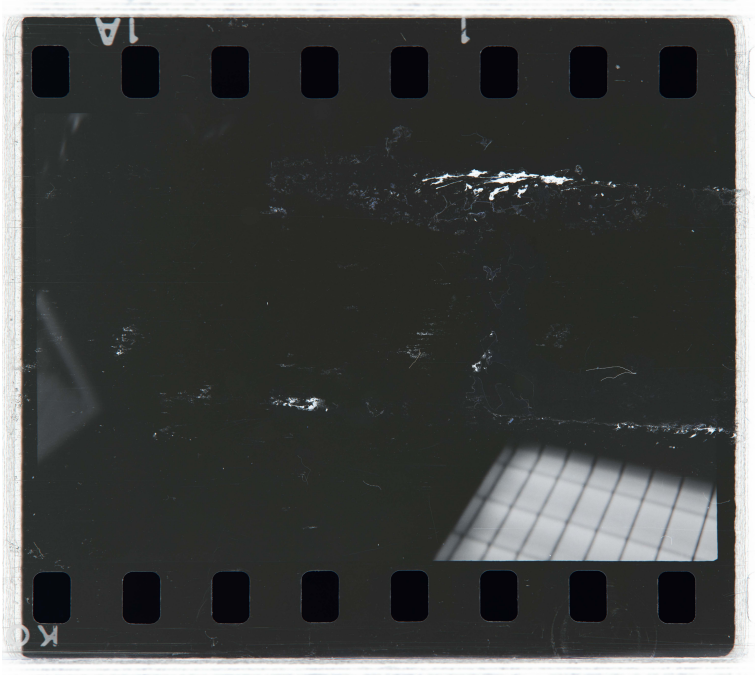

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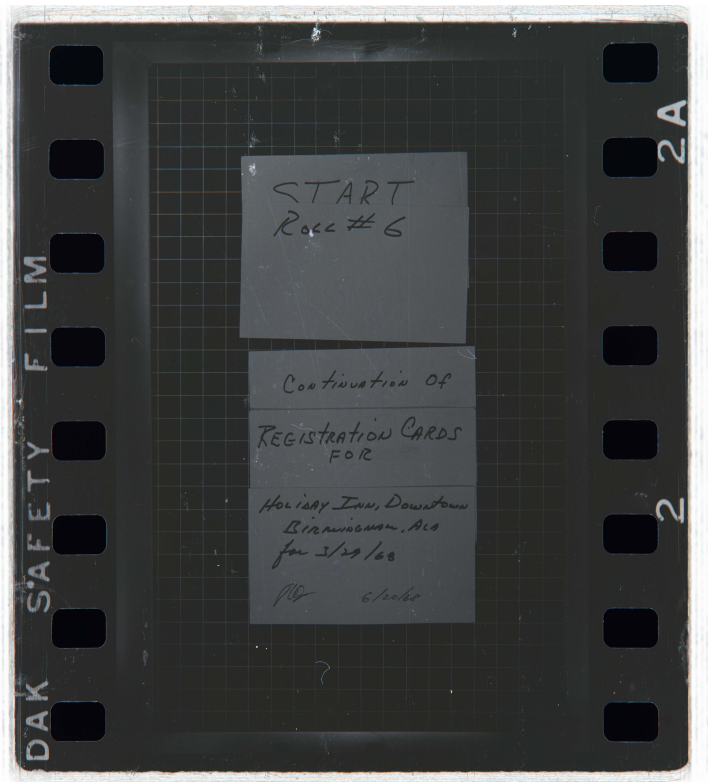

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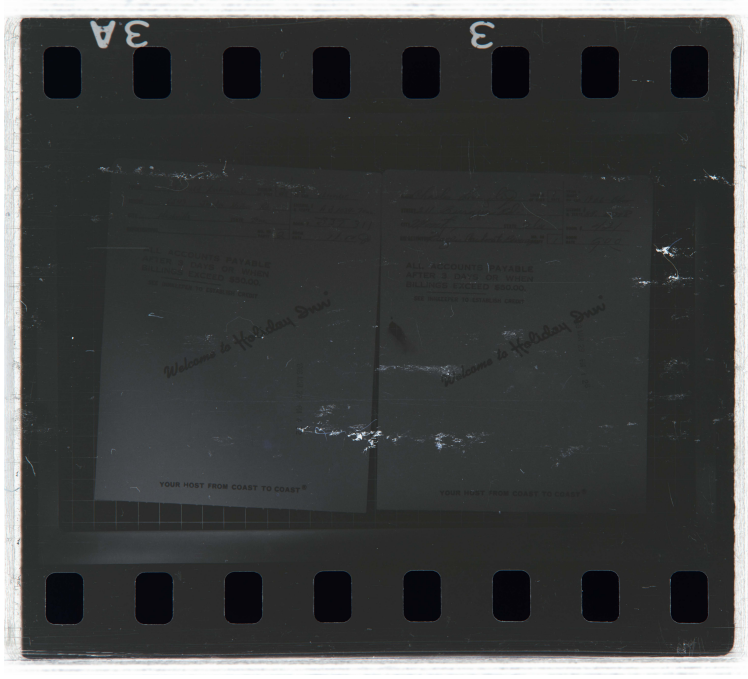

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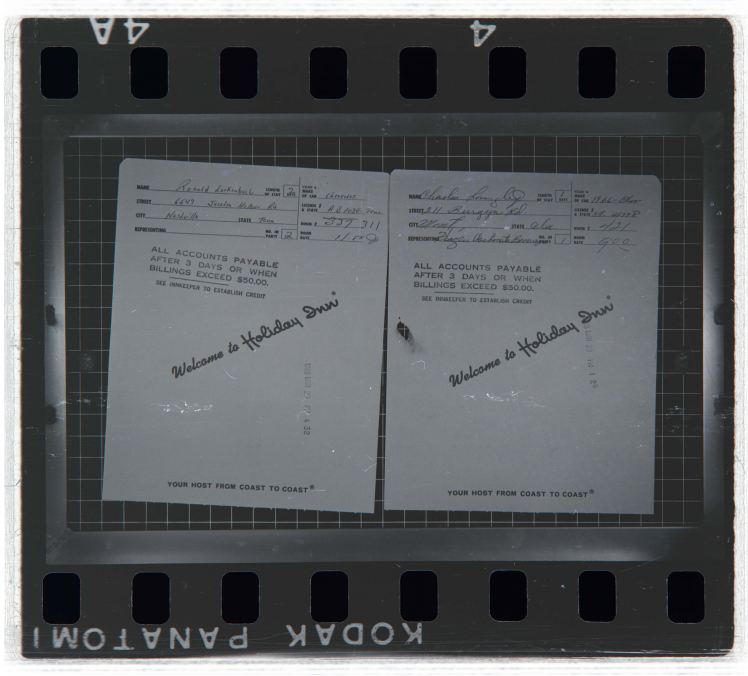

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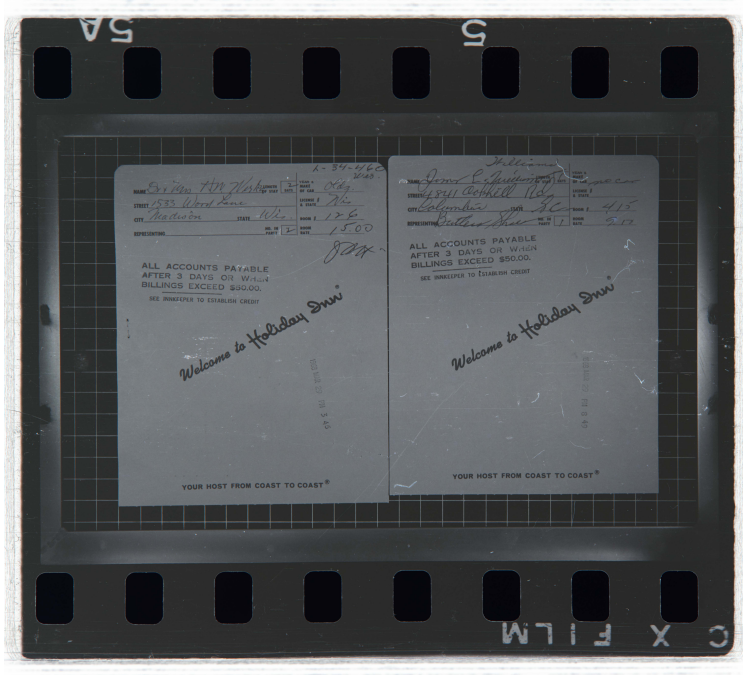

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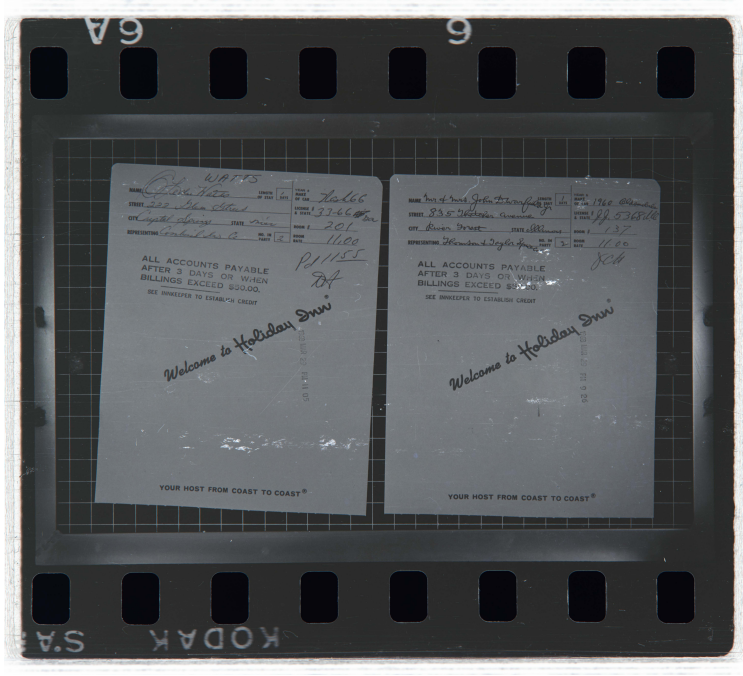

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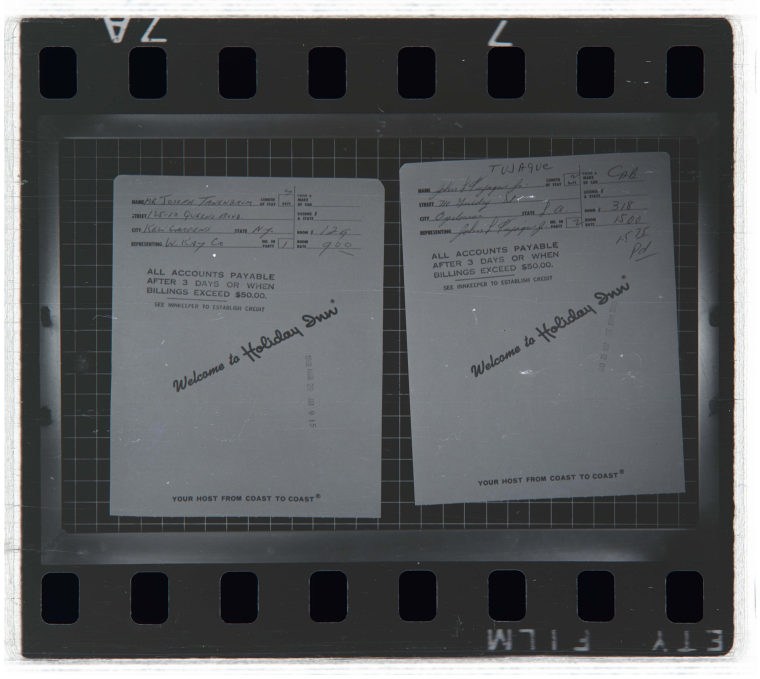

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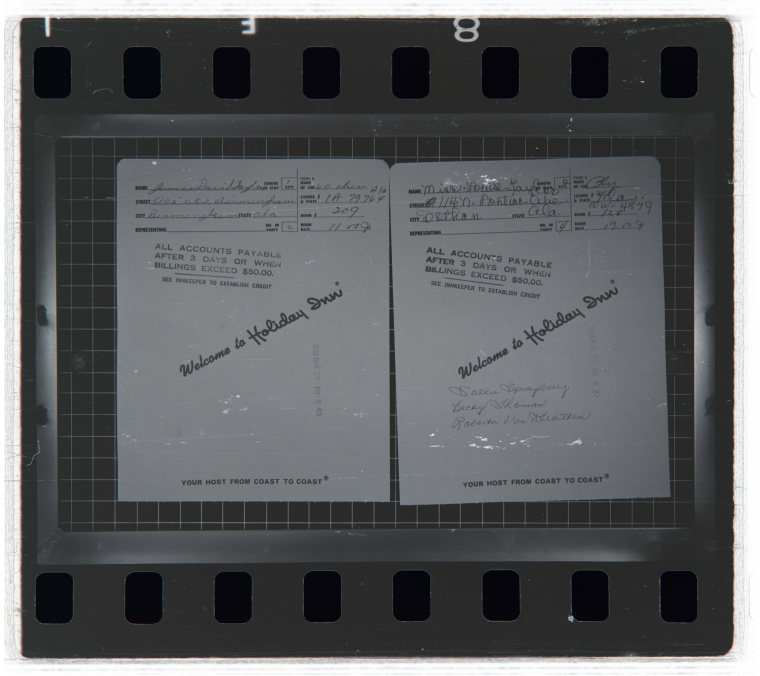

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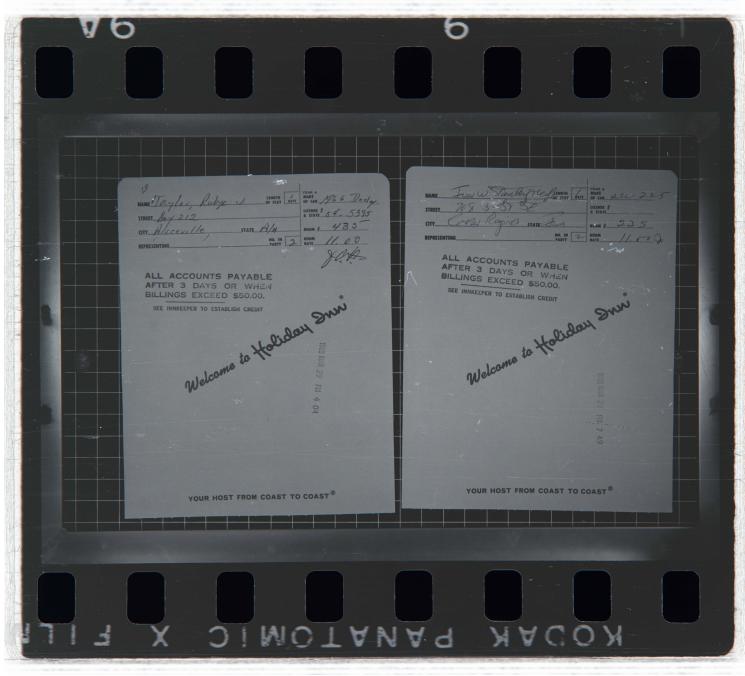

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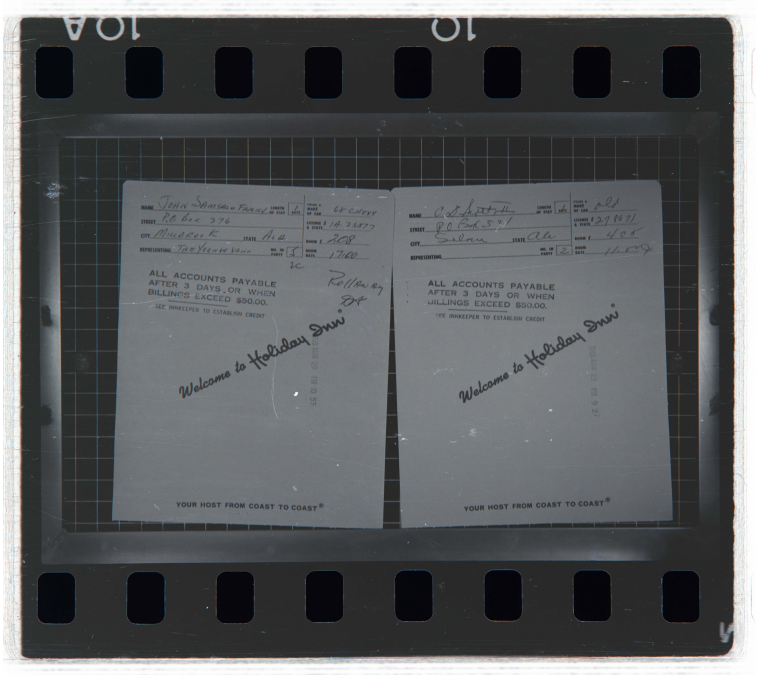

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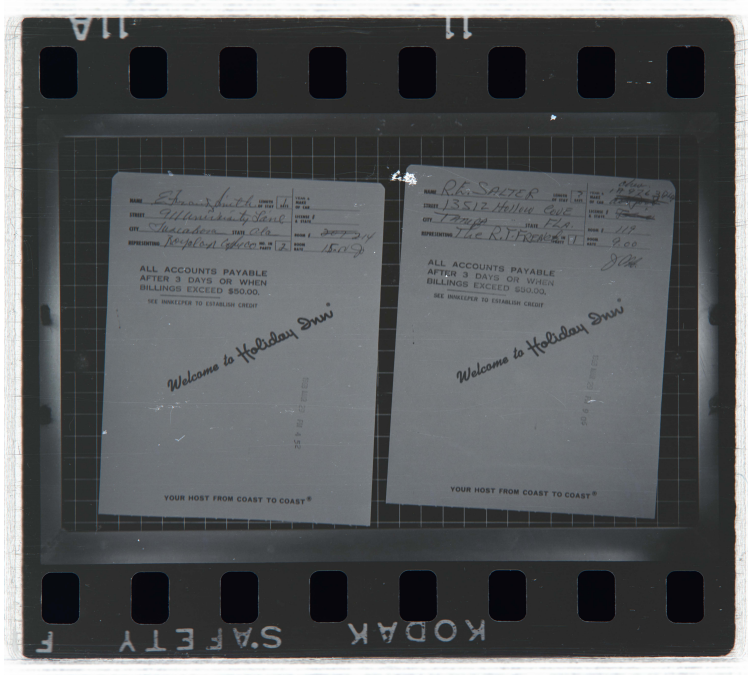

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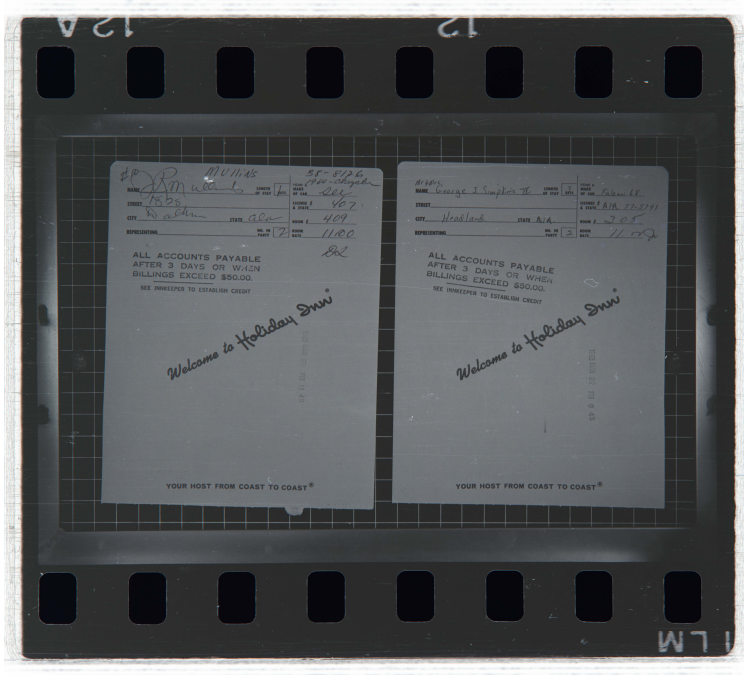

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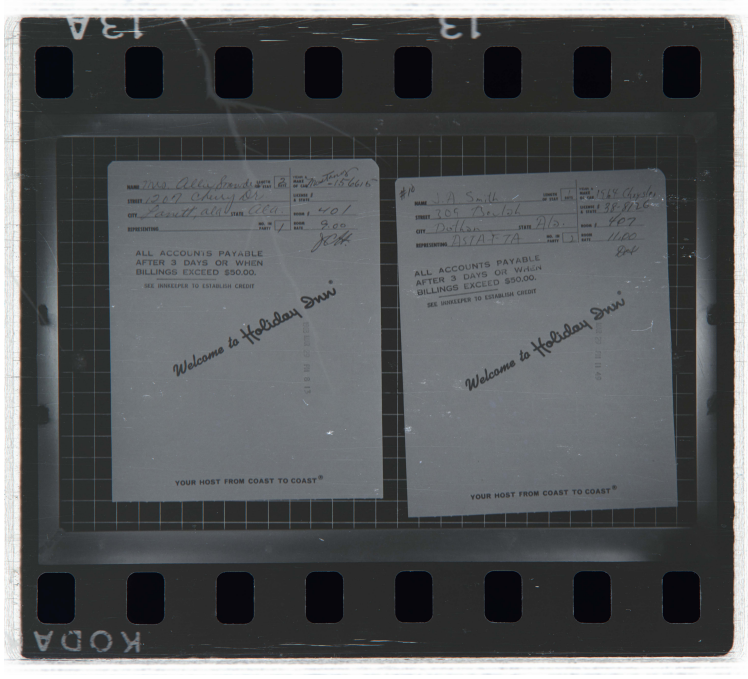

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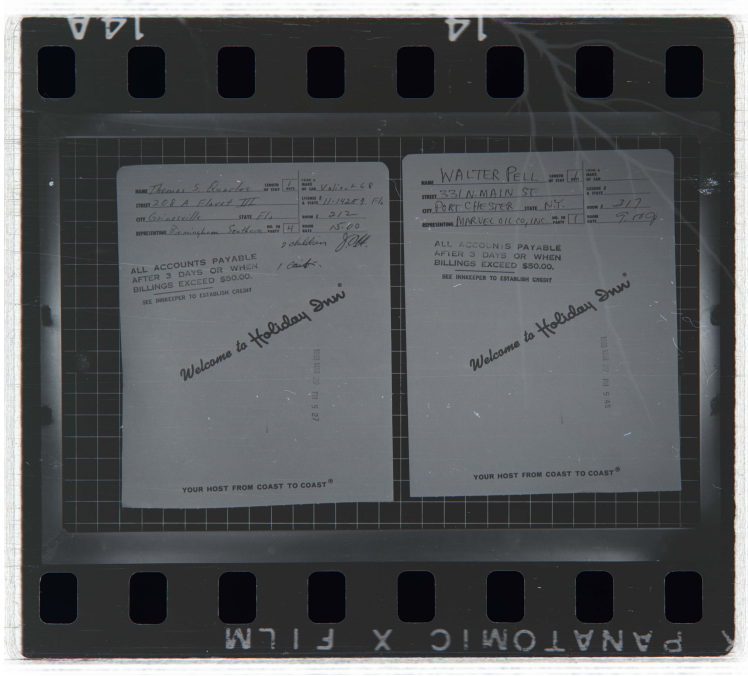

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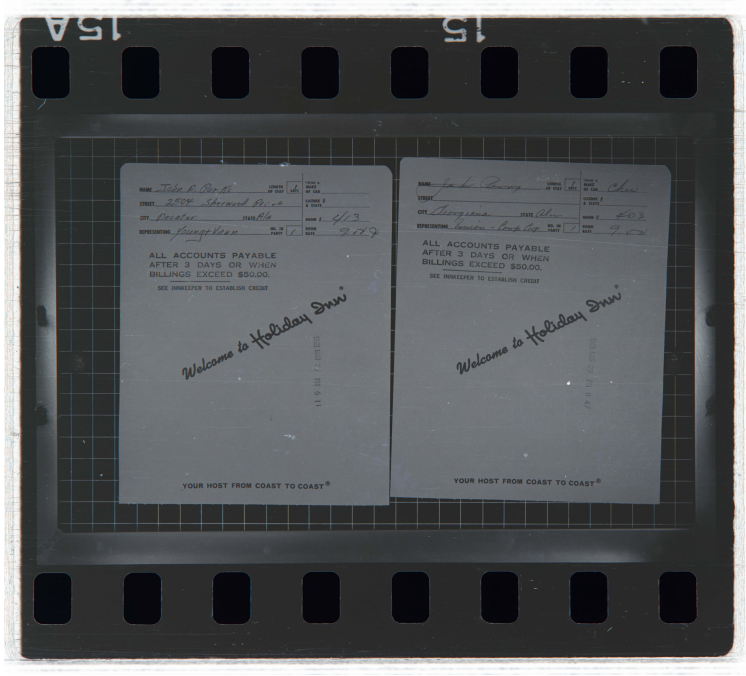

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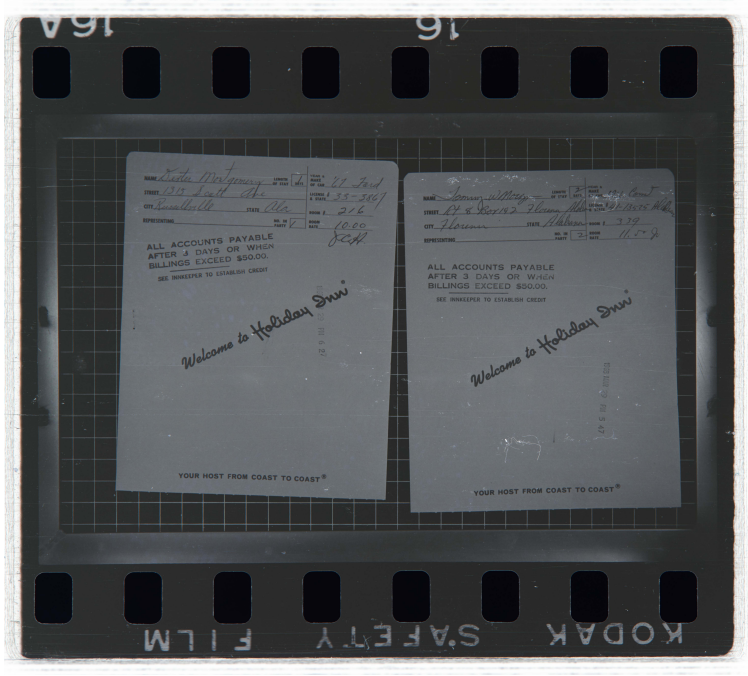

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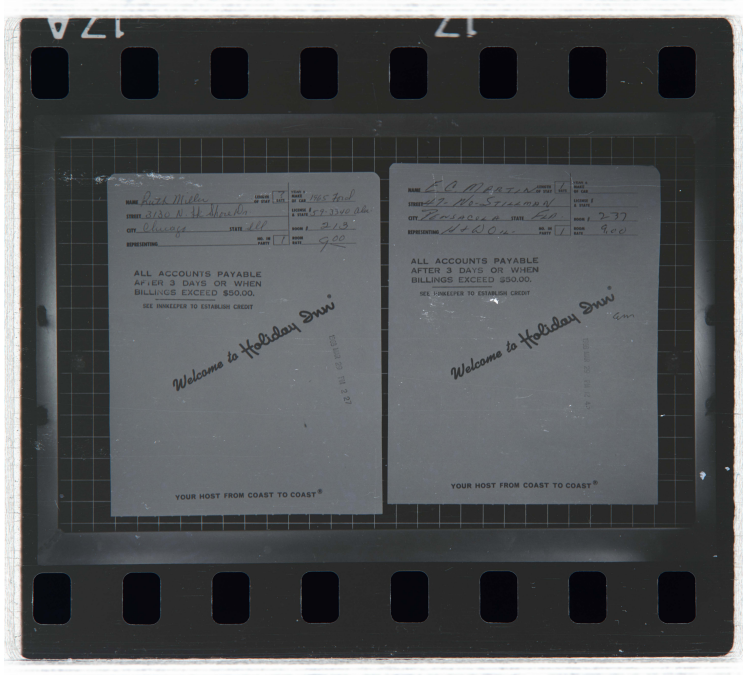

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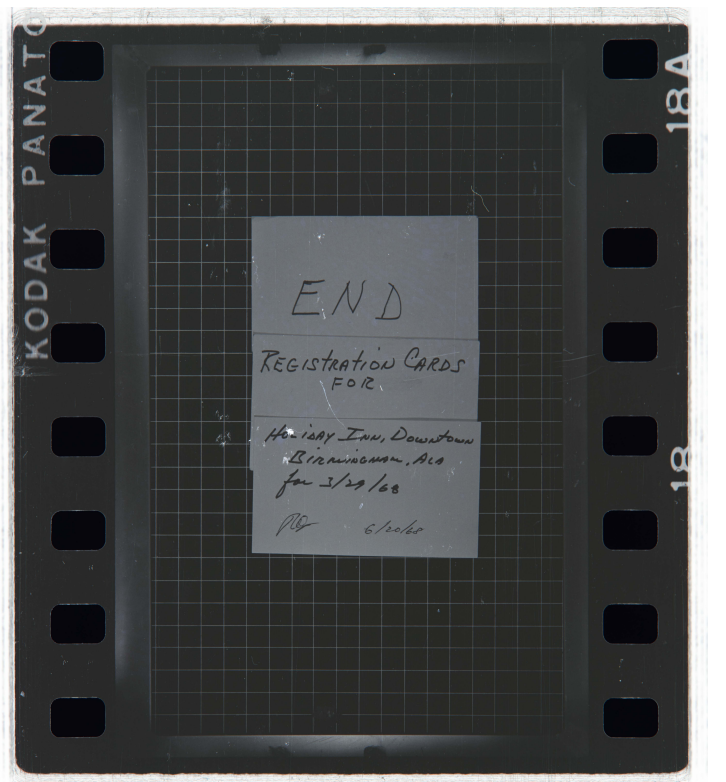

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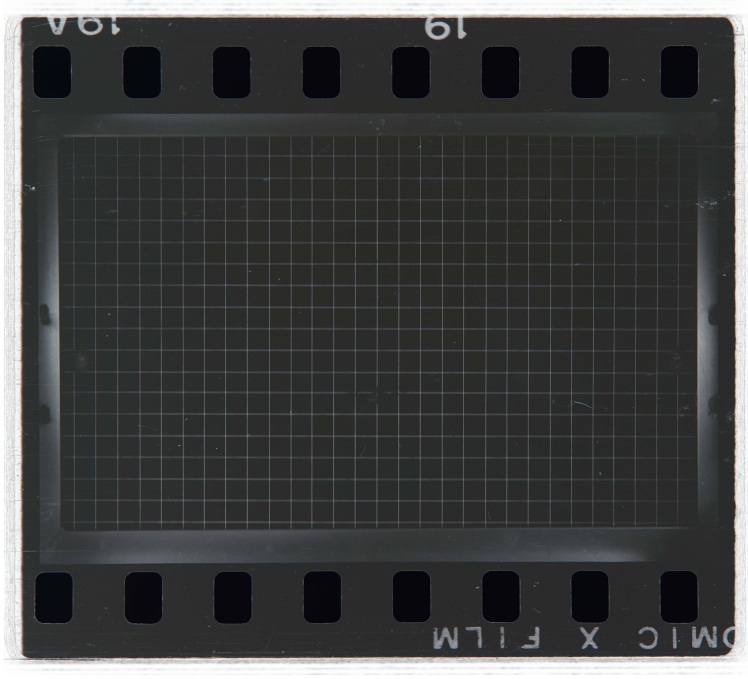

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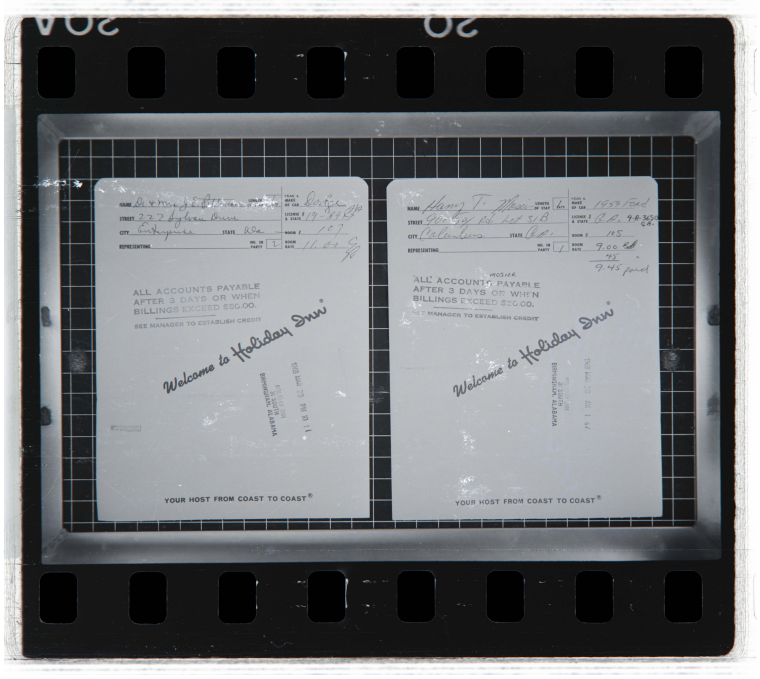

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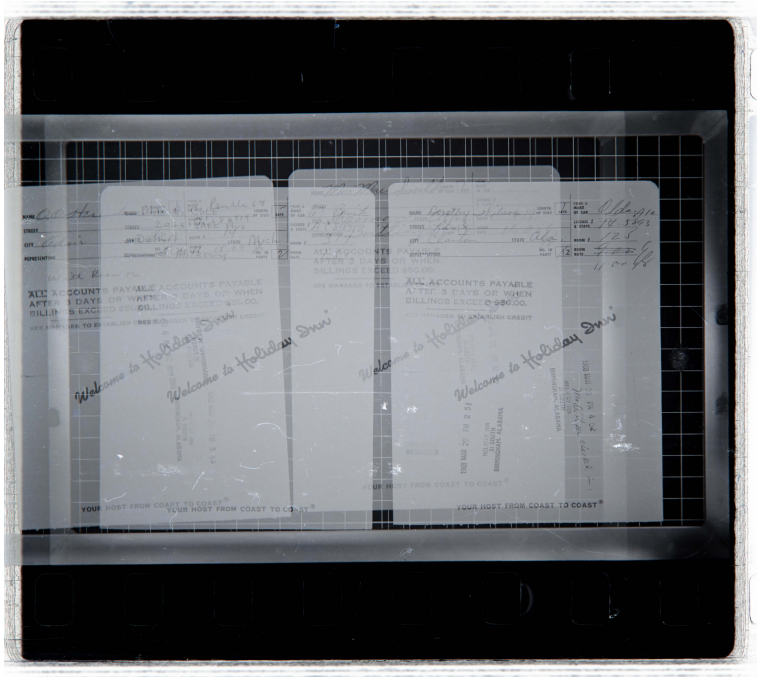

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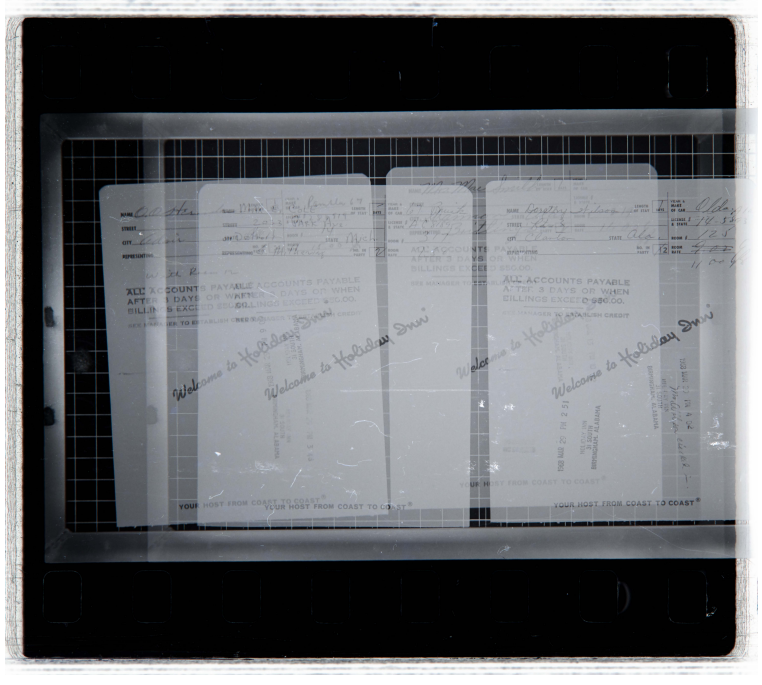

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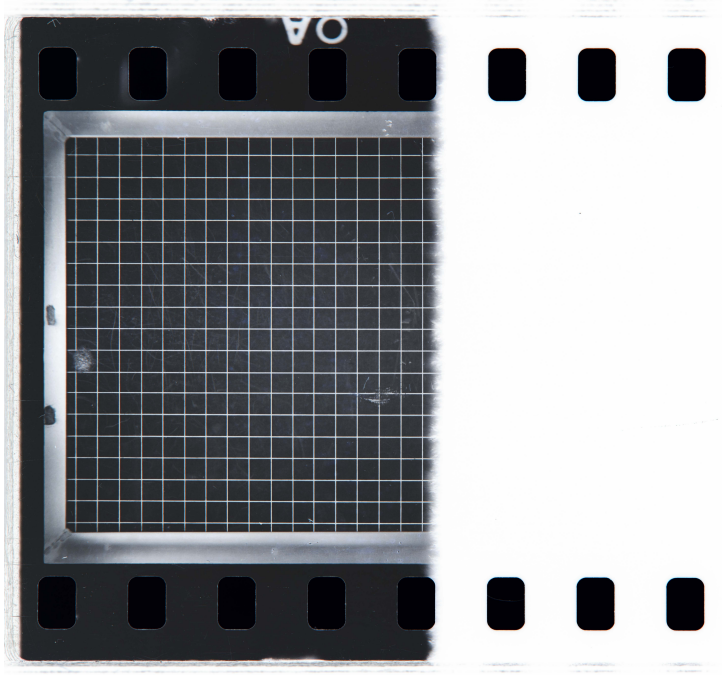

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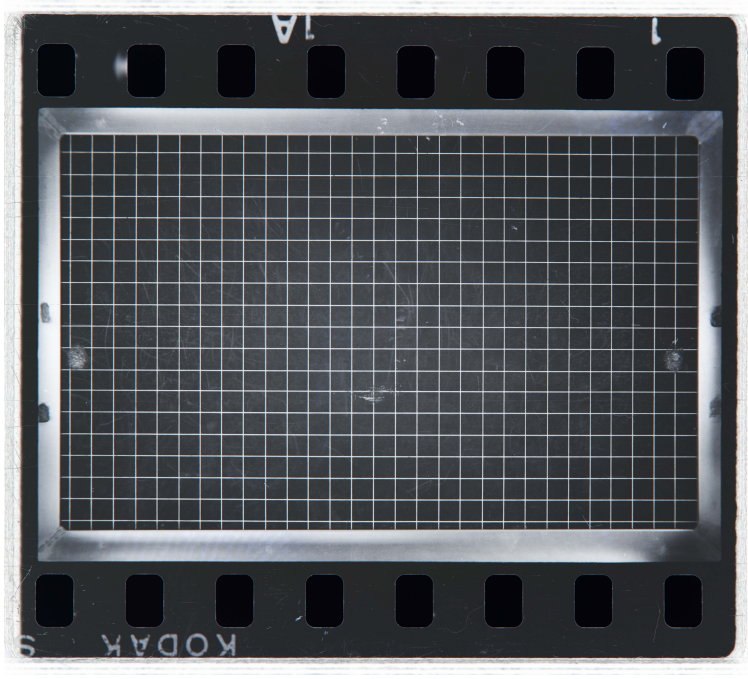

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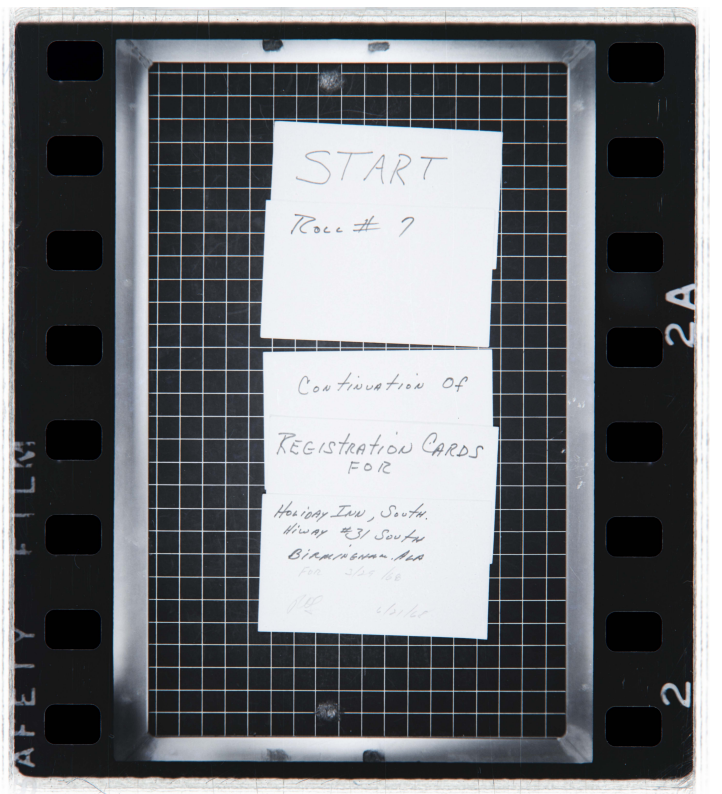

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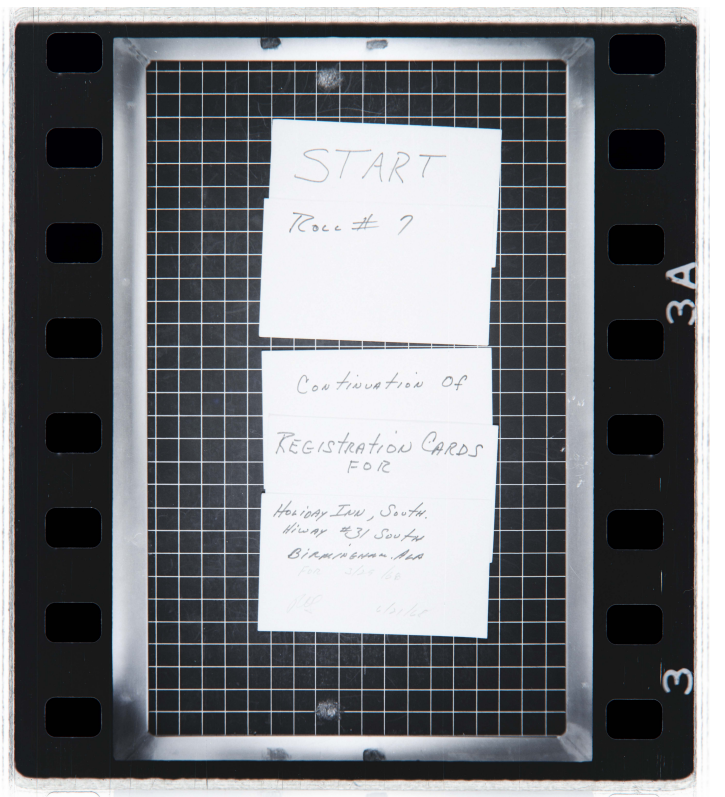

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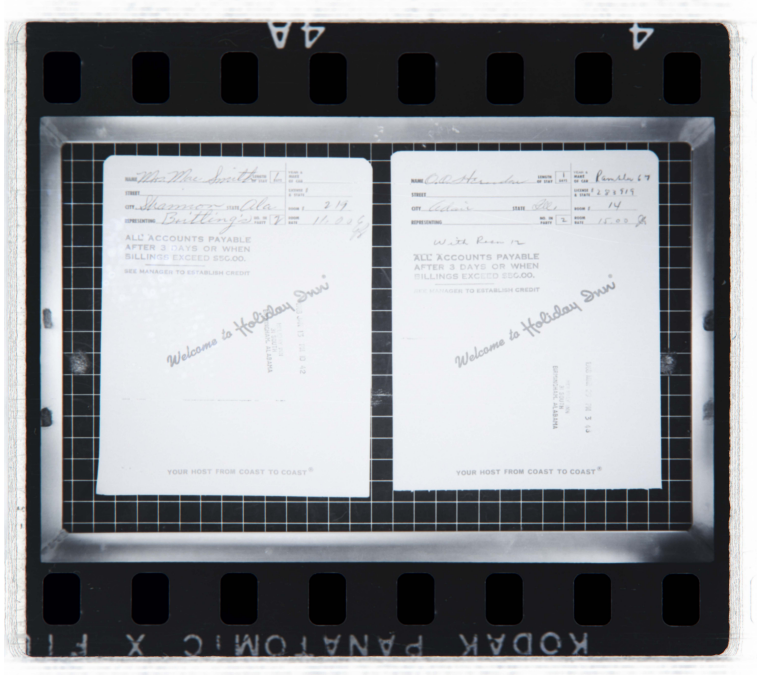

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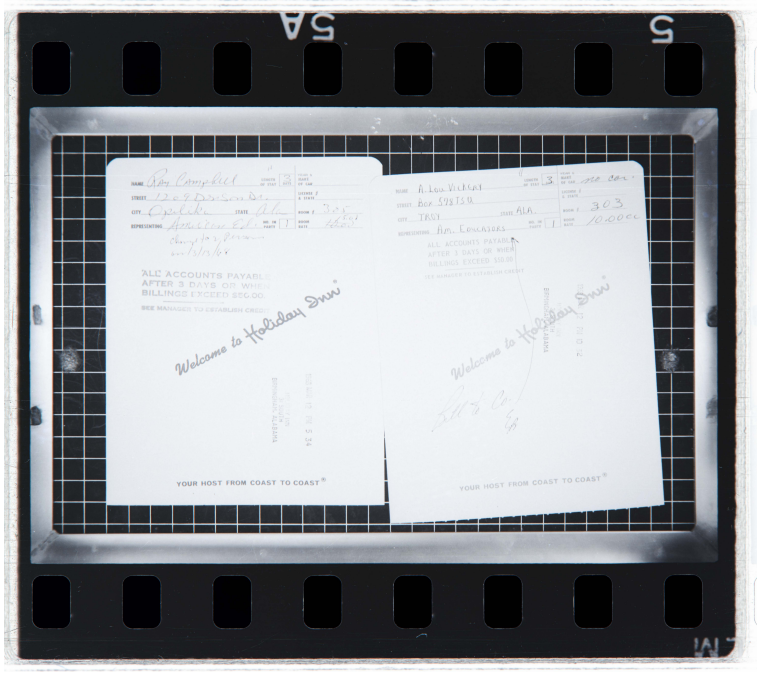

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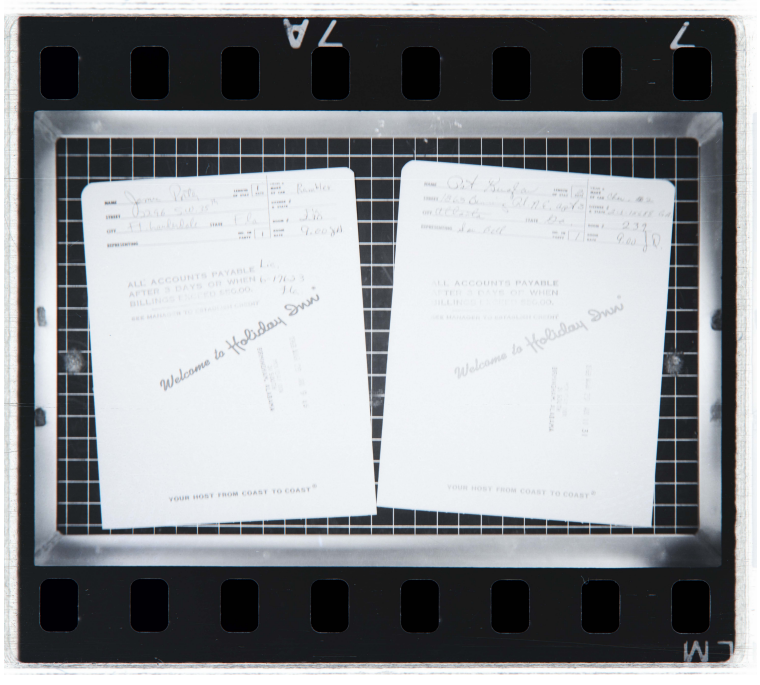

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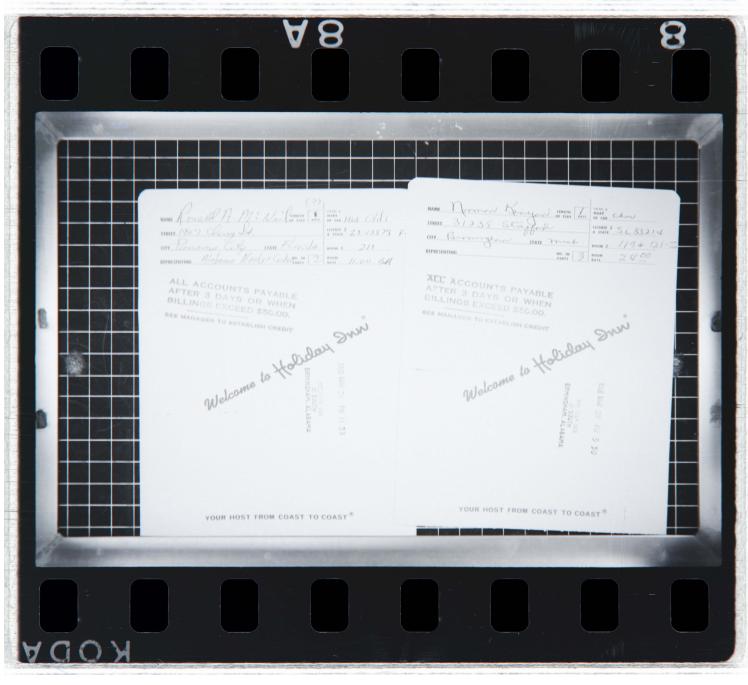

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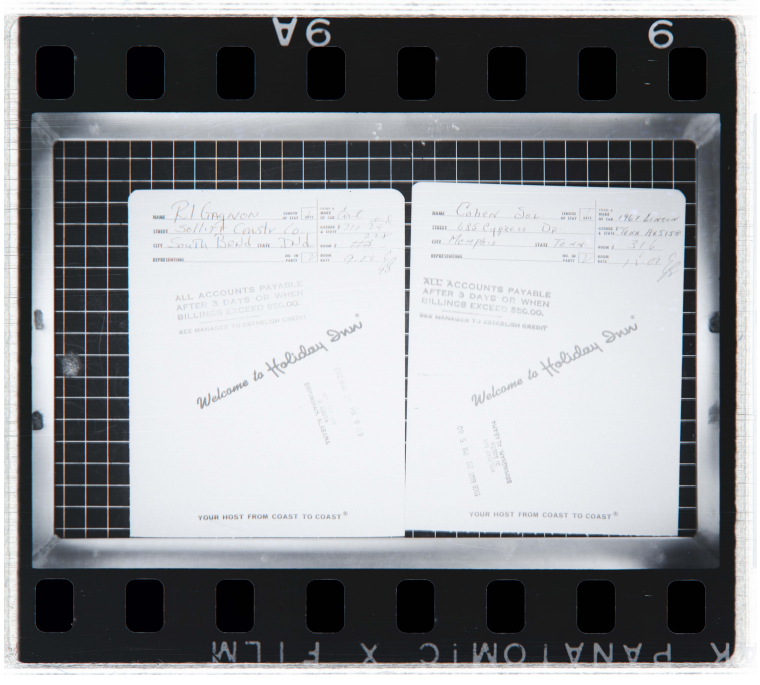

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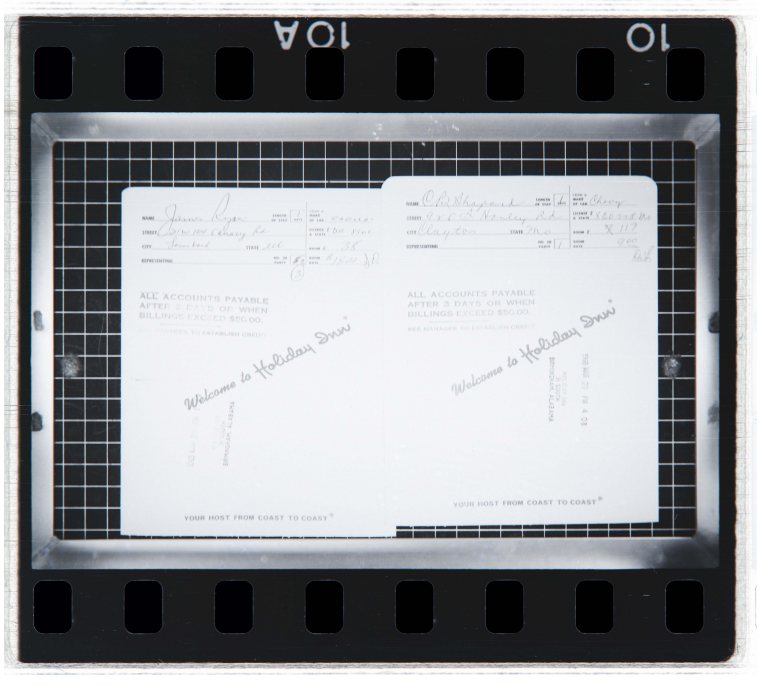

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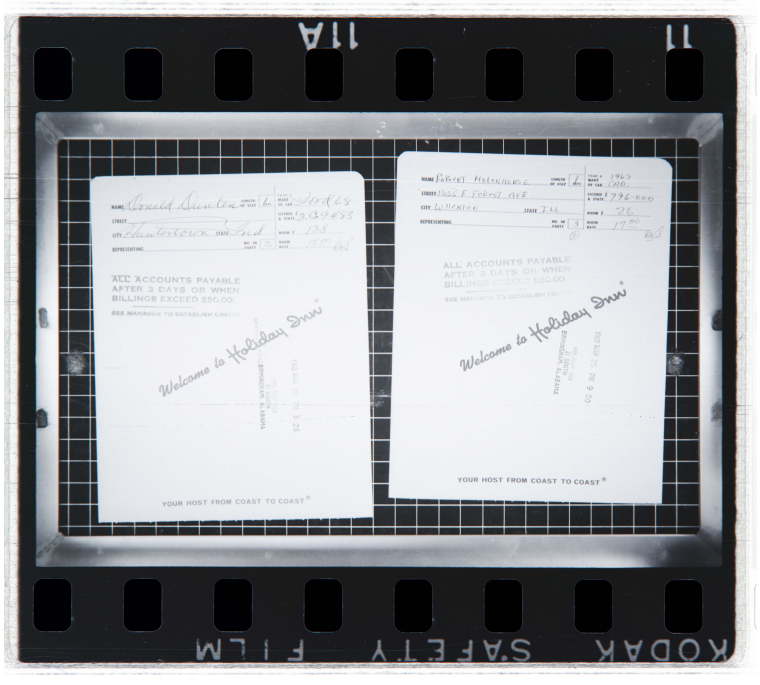

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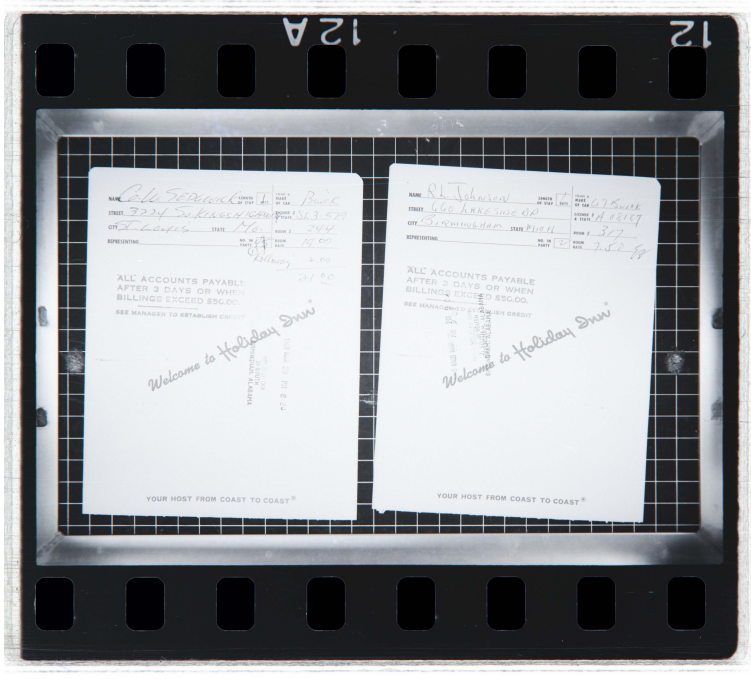

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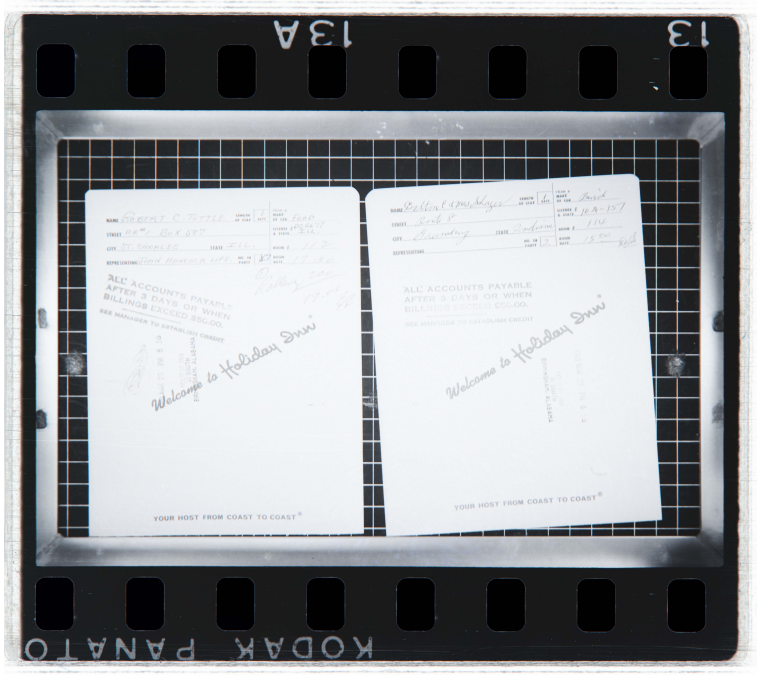

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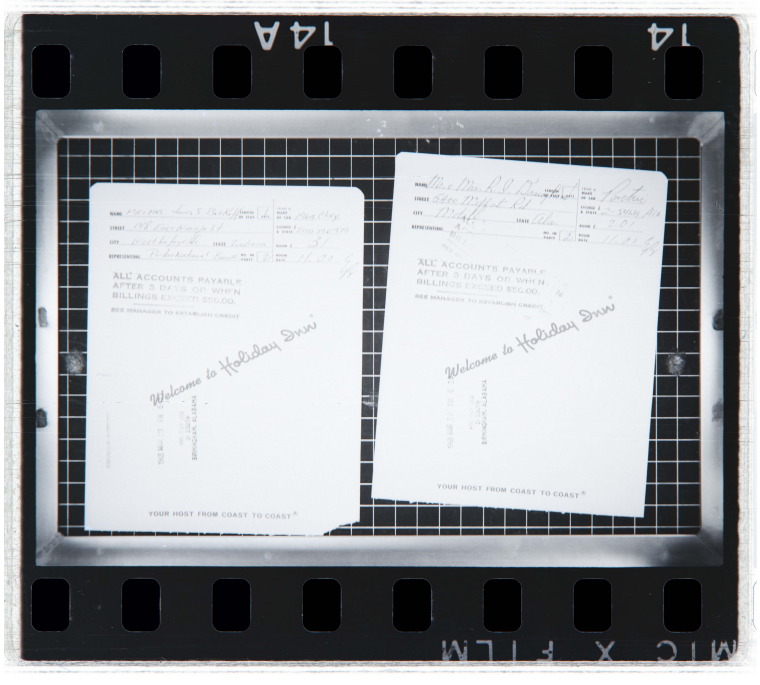

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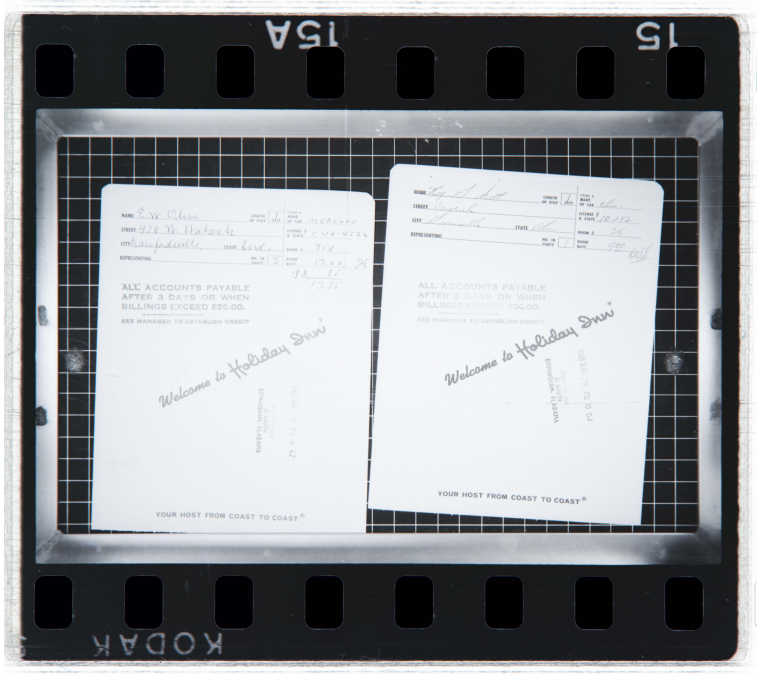

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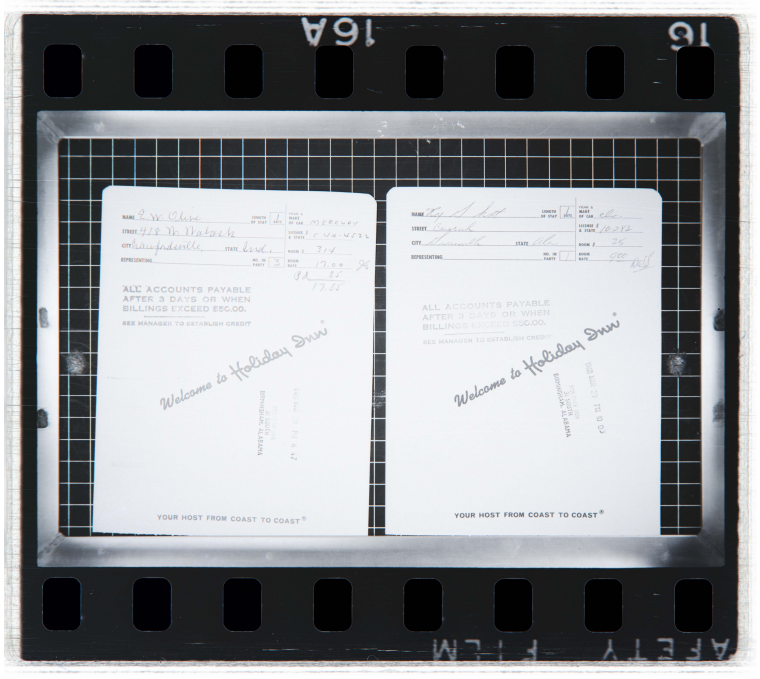

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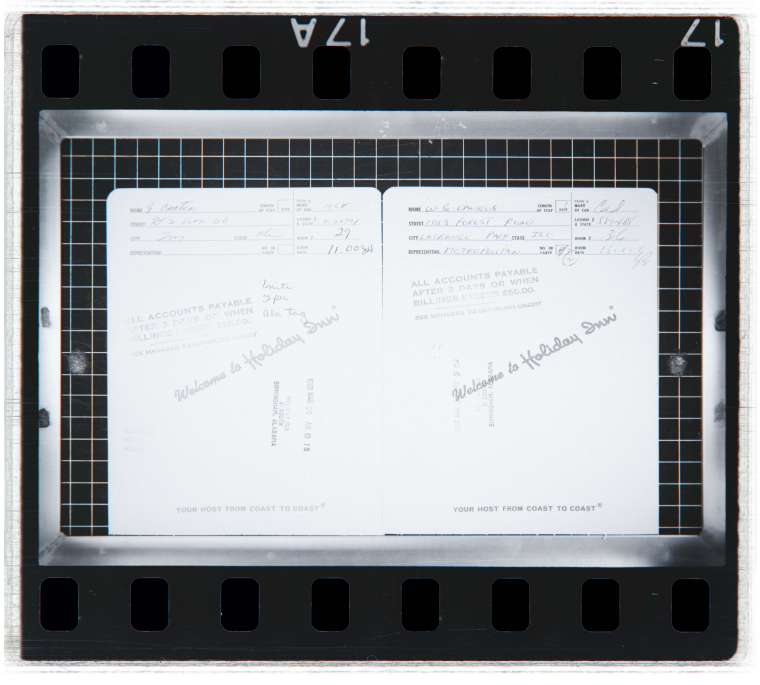

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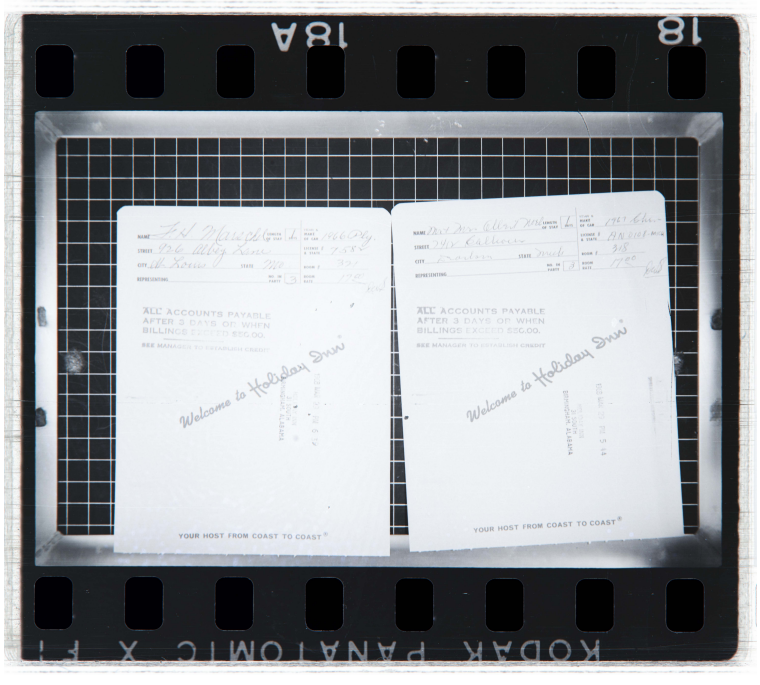

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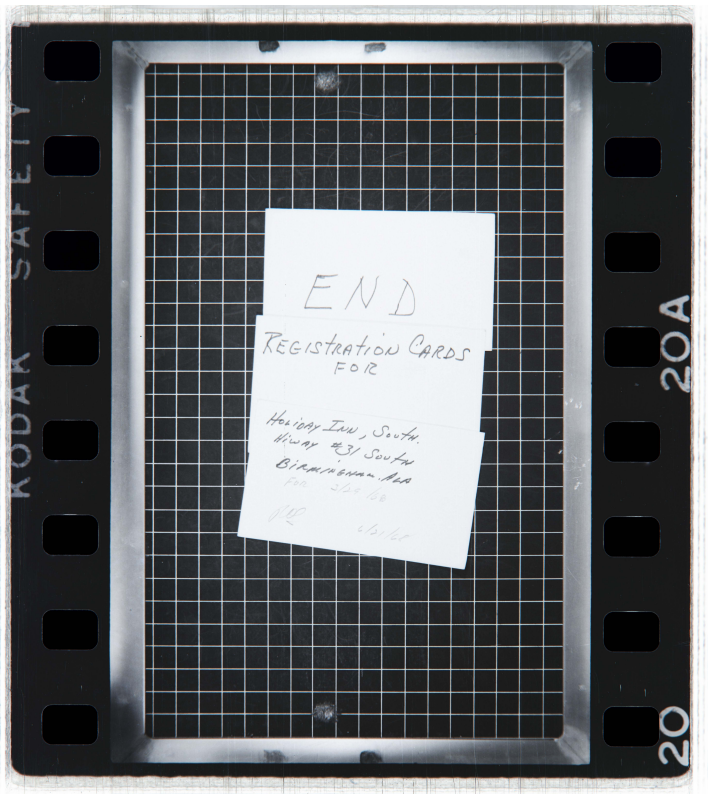

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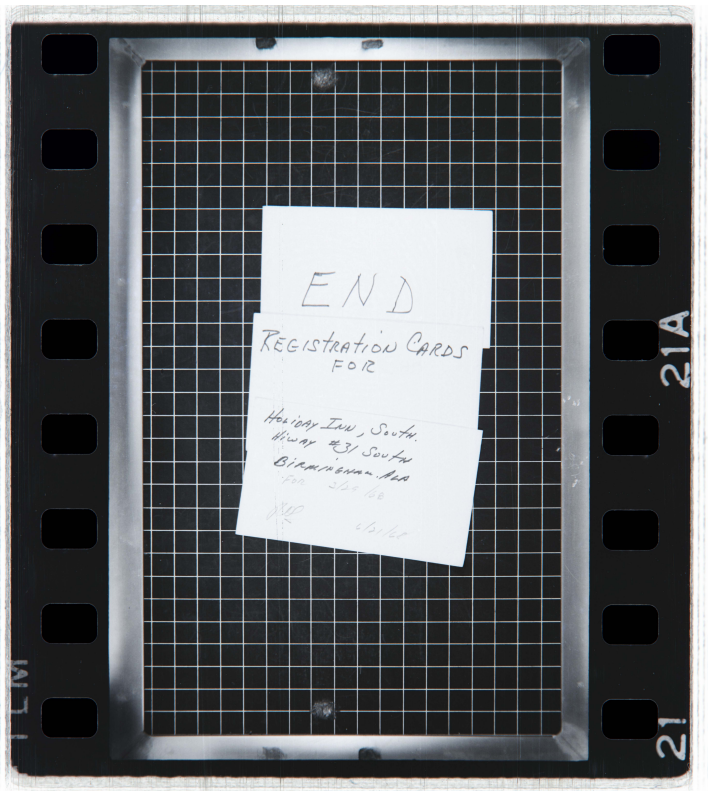

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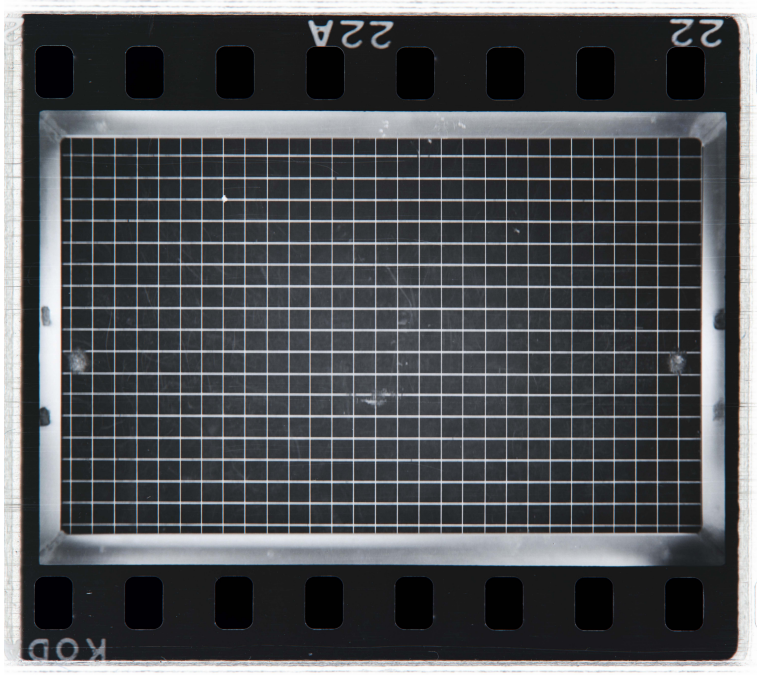

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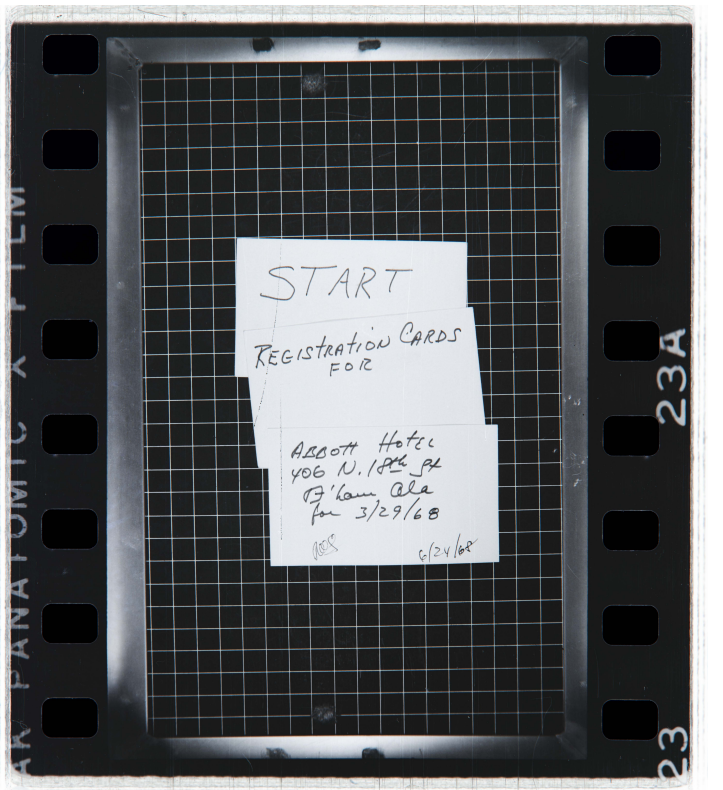

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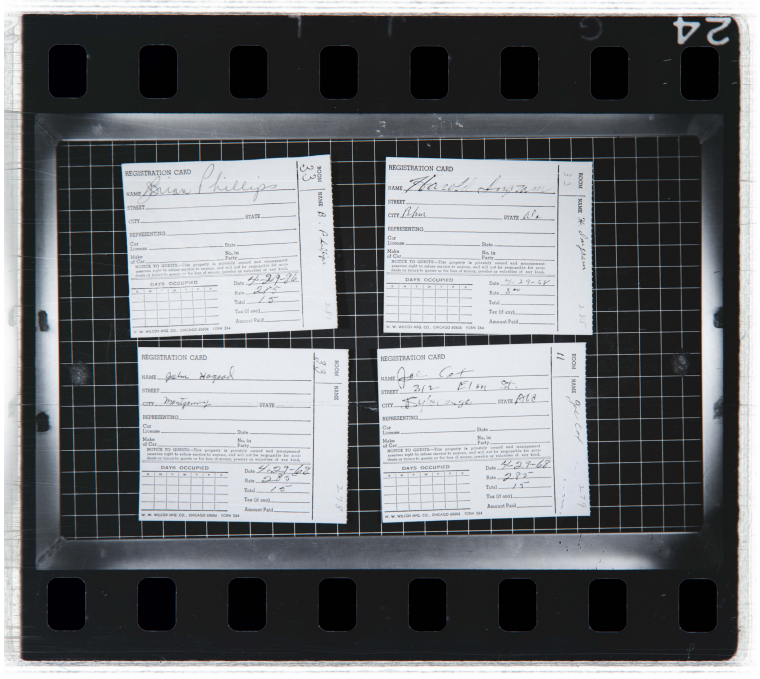

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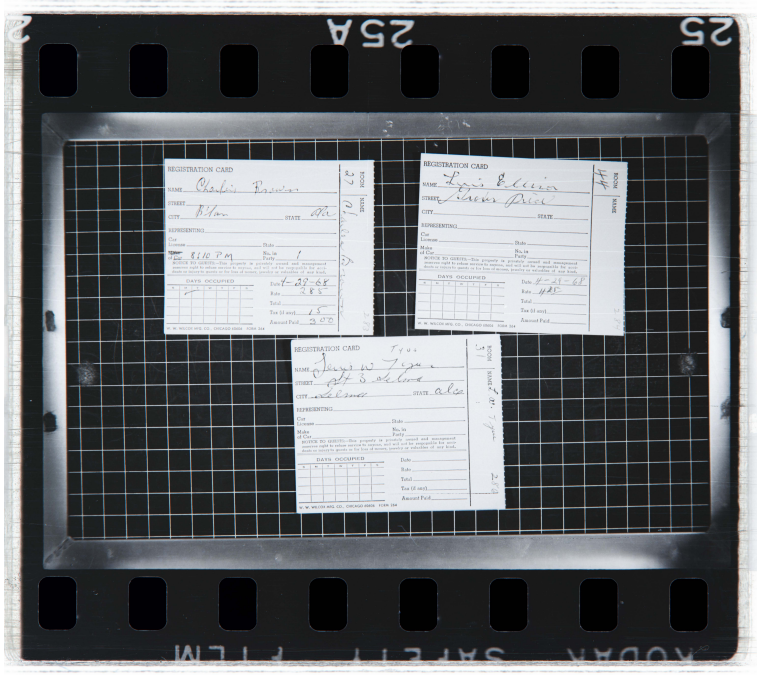

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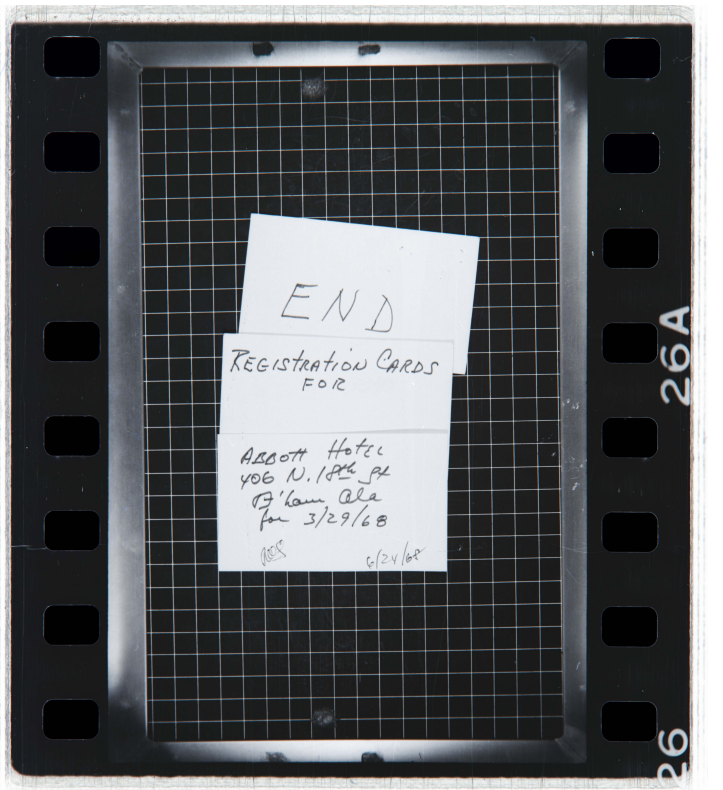

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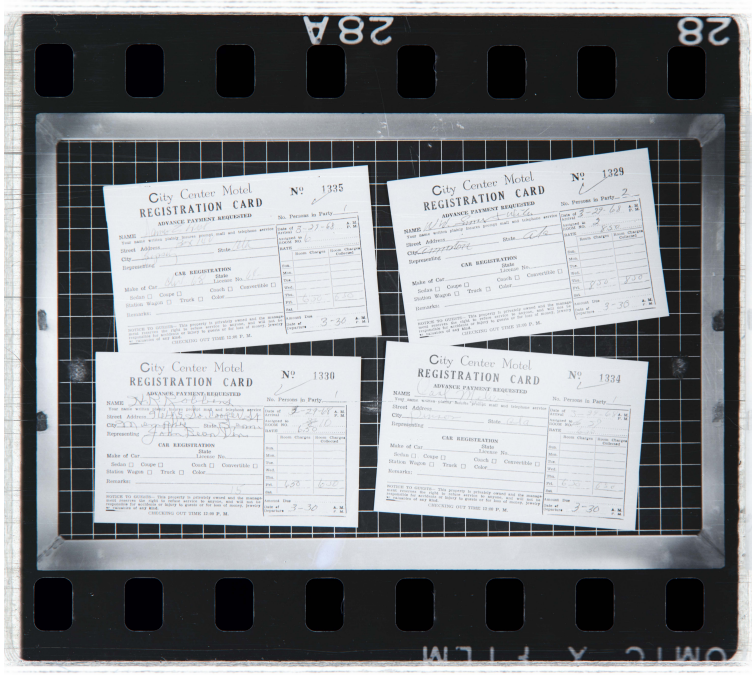

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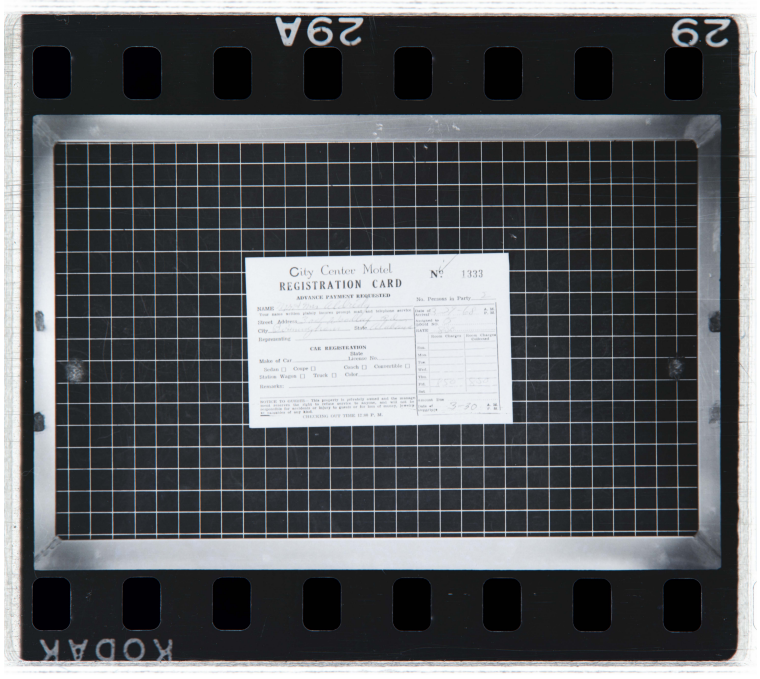

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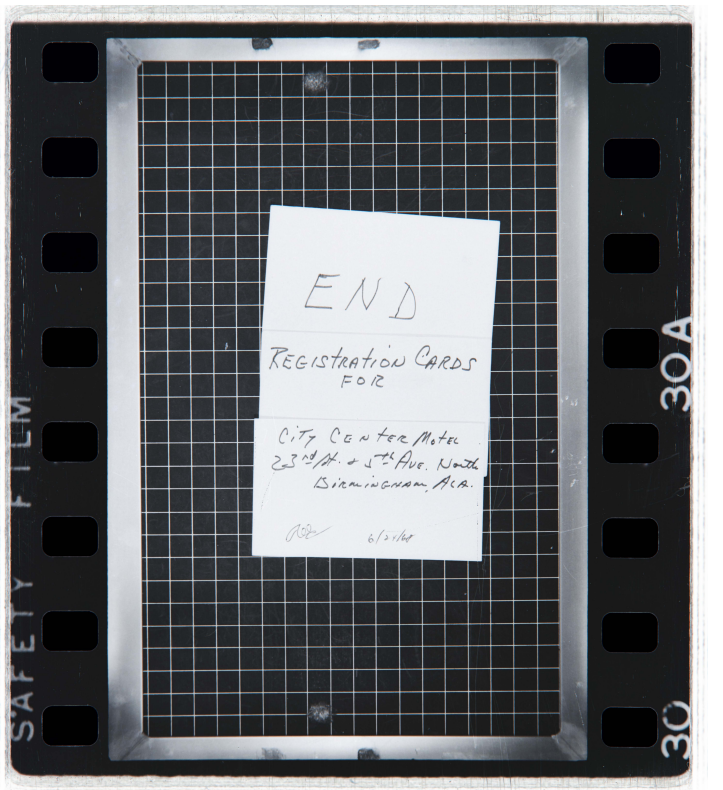

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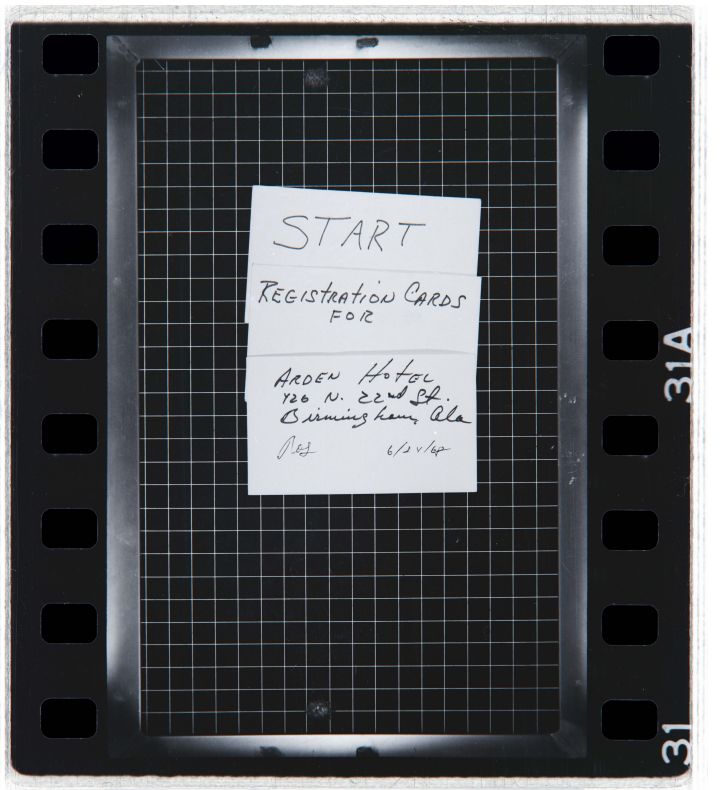

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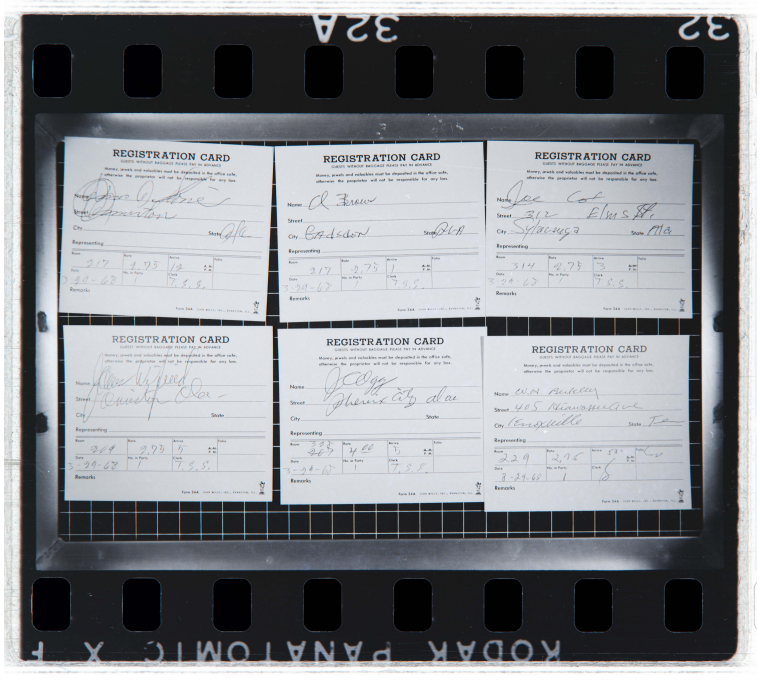

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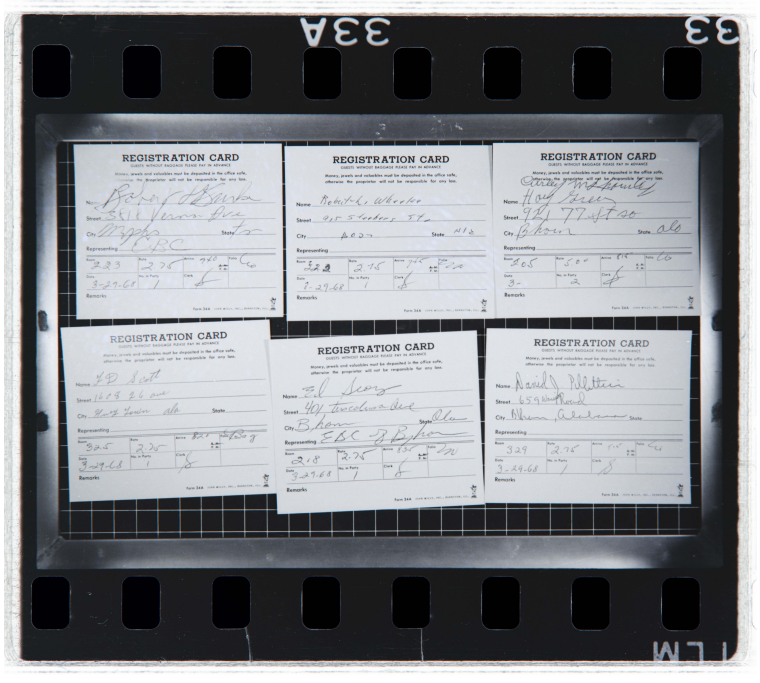

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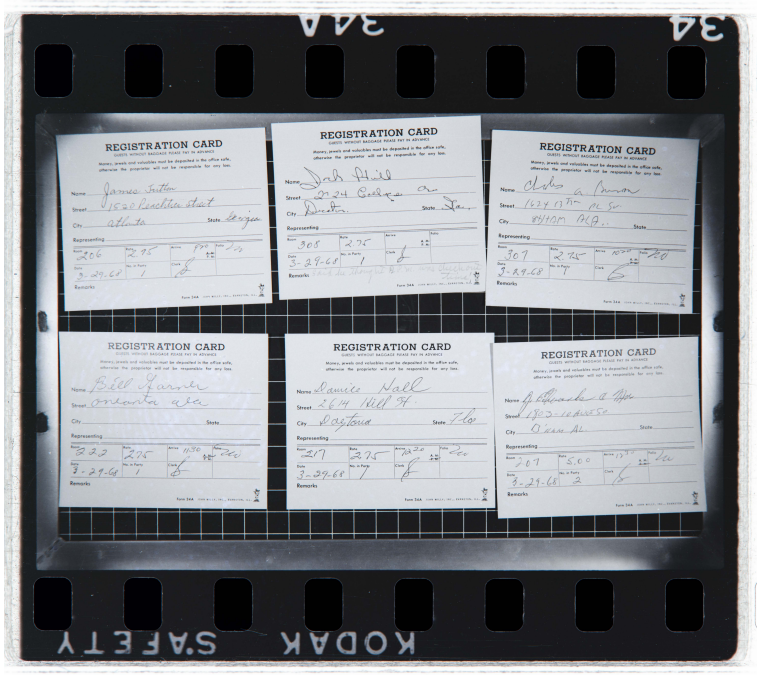

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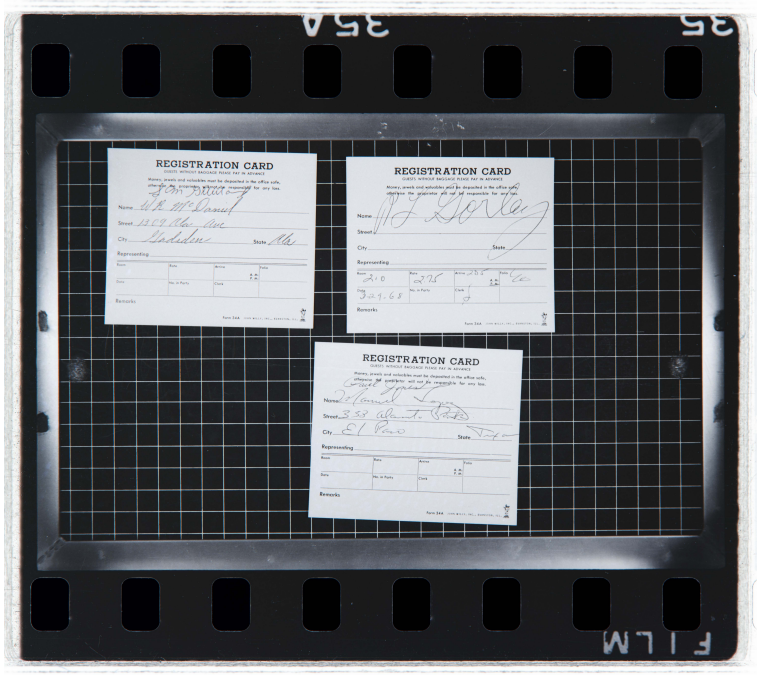

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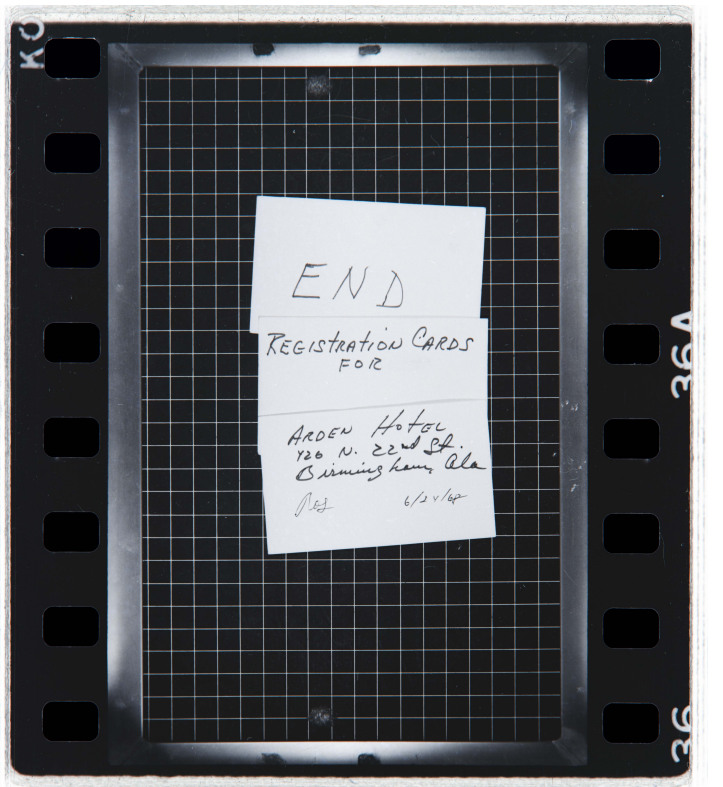

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Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669) P

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Chicago teletype to the Bureau, dated 6/27/68.

Mrs. CECIL BONAS, National Institute of Dry Cleaners, 909 Burlington Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, was contacted on 7/3/68 at which time she advised that she could have a list of cleaning establishments made up as requested; however, due to the scope of the list, and the mechanical operations involved, it may take approximately a week.

On 7/10/68, Mrs. BONAS advised that the list would be available on Tuesday, 7/16/68.

LEAD:

BALTIMORE DIVISION

AT SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Will obtain requested list from Mrs. CECIL BONAS, National Institute of Dry Cleaners, 909 Burlington Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, 7/16/68 as requested in re teletype.

3-Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
1-Chicago (REGISTERED AIR MAIL)
2-Baltimore
PMV:lhs
(6)

(44-1114)

REC- 18 44-38861-4825

17 JUL 12 1968

C. C. - Bishop

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent In Charge

56 JUL 22 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JUL 12 4 35 PM '68

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
JUL 12 4:03 PM '68
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 7/5/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Atlanta tel 7/3/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 10 copies of LHM suitable for dissemination. Two copies each are being submitted to Memphis and Jackson.

EX-103

REC- 24

44-38861-4826

17 JUL 9 1968

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Encs. 10)
2 - Jackson (Encs. 2)
2 - Memphis (Encs. 2)
2 - Atlanta
CSH:jlh
(9)

C. C. - Bishop

1cc sent to Mr Pollak
1cc sent to Mr. Dinson
3cc returned for CRunit
7-10-68 6:94(F) EJ M/ndc

SIX

FBI
REC'D - CIA VIRGINIA

Approved: 59 JUL 18 1968 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JUL 11 1968

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JUL 9 4 48 PM '68

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
JUL 9 3 53 PM '68
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
July 5, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Raymond Curtis submitted a letter to Mr. Charles L. Sanders, Ebony Magazine, which letter is as follows; the letter was semi literate and the following is not a direct quotation but sets forth the essentials:

"Mr. Charles L. Sanders

"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-wrote for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

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44-38861-4Rc

ENCLOSURE

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"In that three year we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

"Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

"Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That no much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

"If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them read the story and you can go from there. O.K.

"I thank you again.

"I will be looking to hear from you soon.

/s/ "Raymond Curtis

"I am still in the Dalton County Jail."

On July 3, 1968, CURTIS was interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, and furnished the following information:

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was contacted at the Whitfield County Jail and advised of the identities of Special Agents THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. and ALBERT D. MILLARD. He was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he read, indicated he understood, but refused to sign. He was advised that he was being interviewed concerning statements he made in a letter he had mailed to Mr. SANDERS of Ebony Magazine.

CURTIS stated he was merely trying to sell a story to Ebony for approximately $5,000 to help his mother pay off a mortgage on her home. She had obtained this mortgage as a result of paying attorney's fees for the defense of CURTIS at a previous trial.

CURTIS stated that he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a burglary in Joliet, Illinois, in October or November, 1954. It was pointed out to CURTIS that certain statements made by him in his letter to Ebony Magazine could possibly involve him in a conspiracy with JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS then stated he wished to go on record as to the statements made in his letter to Mr. SANDERS. He categorically denied the following statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine:

1) That he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a crime in 1954;
2) That RAY wanted the job of killing KING;
3) That he and RAY talked about killing KING for three years;
4) That he and RAY talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK Businessmen's Association which Association was to put up the money to kill KING;
5) That he knew the men from Mississippi;
6) That for three years he and RAY made maps just to find the right place to kill KING and that he made the maps over himself;
7) That he and RAY knew just where they would go after the killing of KING;
8) That he was to be in on the killing of KING;
9) That there are men in five states who are behind the killing of KING and these men do not know what he (CURTIS) knows.

On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA ALBERT D. MILLARD and SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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During this interview CURTIS drew two maps setting out how he thought RAY would stalk KING. This map indicated the following towns where he said KING made most of his speeches: Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Birmingham, Mobile, and Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Vicksburg, and Marks, Mississippi.

CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.

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JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

On July 3, 1968, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted SA HENRY to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1968, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File# AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was (first name unknown) WILLETT, also known as "Mississippi," who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.

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